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INTRODUCTION

The year 2009 recorded 48 direct parliamentary elections in 42 countries. An average of 72.10 per cent of the 1.3 billion registered voters turned out at the polls, an increase of 2.81 percentage points over 2008 based on data available. This confirmed recent trends in voter turnout. In India alone, 714 million registered voters were called to the polls over a five-week period. Most of the elections in 2009 took place in a generally calm atmosphere.

Elections marked by the global economic crisis

The global economic and financial crisis that rocked the world in 2008 and early 2009 played a major role in many of the elections in 2009. The effects of the crisis loomed large in election campaigns in Andorra, Botswana, Greece, Iceland, Mexico, Panama and Portugal, among others. In Iceland, street protests forced Prime Minister Geir Haarde of the Independence Party (IP) to resign in January 2009. Snap elections in April resulted in the first left-wing government in the country. For the first time in six decades, the IP was not part of the government. The October elections in Greece took place amid fears that the country's public debt would exceed 100 per cent of GDP in 2009. The Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) led by Mr. George Papandreu was voted into office at the expense of the incumbent government led by Mr. Kostas Karamanlis (New Democracy). In Panama, the opposition coalition, the Alliance for Change (APC), won both the parliamentary and presidential elections. Its presidential candidate, Mr. Ricardo Martinelli, was elected with nearly 60 per cent of the votes, up from his score of 5 per cent in 2004. Worries over the global crisis seem to have played in his favour. In Germany, where the automobile industry was severely affected by the crisis, Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) abandoned the grand coalition with the Social Democratic Party (SPD), and formed a new coalition with the pro-business Free Democratic Party (FDP). In Portugal, which recorded its highest unemployment rate in 20 years (9.1 per cent) in 2009, the Socialist Party (PS) remained the largest party in parliament but failed to obtain an absolute majority, leading to the formation of a minority government.

Early elections

Twelve countries held elections prior to when they would have been due. In Bolivia, Ecuador and Niger the early elections were required under a new Constitution. The Republic of Moldova held snap polls in July after the legislature elected in April 2009 failed to elect a new President of the country. Kuwait held elections in two consecutive years due to a standoff between the parliament and the government. Political stalemate in the formation of a new government triggered early elections in Israel. As indicated earlier, the global economic crisis triggered early elections in Greece and Iceland among others.

Elections held under a new Constitution

In Bolivia, a new Constitution, adopted by referendum in January 2009, transformed the previous National Congress into the Plurinational Legislative Assembly, comprising a 130-member Chamber of Deputies and a

Introduction

36-member Chamber of Senators (up from 27). The Movement for Socialism (MAS) secured a majority in both chambers. In the presidential elections, President Evo Morales was re-elected with over 60 per cent of the votes. In Ecuador, the 100-member National Congress was replaced by a 124-member National Assembly. Twice delayed, elections eventually took place in April. President Rafael Correa's MPAIS (Movimiento Patria Altiva y Soberana) party came in first with 59 seats but failed to secure a majority. President Correa was re-elected with 51.99 per cent of the votes, becoming the first presidential candidate to be elected without a run-off in 30 years. The Maldives held the first multi-party parliamentary elections under the 2008 Constitution. They were also the first to be held under the new President, Mohamed Nasheed, whose election in October 2008 ended President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom's 30 years in power. At stake were 77 seats in the new People's Majlis, all directly elected (up from 50, of which eight were for presidential appointees). The Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP) of former President Gayoom became the largest party with 28 seats, winning two more seats than President Nasheed's Maldives Democratic Party (MDP). In Niger, the opposition boycotted the October polls in protest over the new Constitution that allowed President Tandja to run for president indefinitely. His National Movement for the Development Society (MNSD) won 76 of the 113 seats at stake and its allies took 22 seats. The 2009 Constitution provided for a bicameral Parliament. A coup d'Etat in February 2010 suspended the Constitution and dissolved the National Assembly.

Power shifts

Despite the global economic crisis, incumbent governments were generally returned to office. This was the case in 25 of the 33 countries where the composition of government depended on the results of parliamentary elections. Countries where the outgoing government lost power included the Republic of Moldova, where the government of the Party of Moldovan Communists (PCRM), elected in April 2009, was voted out three months later. In Japan also, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which had ruled the country almost uninterrupted since 1955, lost to the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) in the August elections. DPJ leader, Mr. Yukio Hatoyama, was elected Prime Minister in September. In El Salvador, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), a former armed group that joined the political process in the early 1990s, became the largest party in the Legislative Assembly in the January 2009 election. It won three more seats than the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) which had ruled the country since 1989. Its leader, Mr. Mauricio Funes, won the presidential elections in March.

Women in Parliaments

In 2009, women won 21.86 per cent of the 7,813 directly elected seats. 14 countries recorded an increase of over 5 percentage points in the number of women, while three others recorded a decrease of over 5 points.

In Kuwait, while women's political participation remained a divisive issue during the runner-up to the elections, four women were directly elected to parliament for the first time. Previously, the only women members had been

Introduction

cabinet members who sat ex officio in parliament. In Japan, the percentage of women in the House of Representatives reached double digits (11.25%) for the first time. On the contrary, in Micronesia (Federated States of), no female candidates stood for election in 2009, as in previous elections.

Twelve women assumed the post of parliamentary Speaker in: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Senate), Botswana, Bulgaria, Chile (Chamber of Deputies), Dominica, Iceland, India (House of the People), Mozambique, Uruguay (House of Representatives) and Uzbekistan (Legislative Chamber). Women were holding this position for the first time in Bolivia (Senate), Botswana, Bulgaria, India (House of the People) and Mozambique.

More information on elections in 2009 is available in the PARLINE database (www.ipu.org/parline) from which the data in the Chronicle has been extracted.

I wish to thank all those persons who provide ongoing support in the preparation of the Chronicle. I wish to thank in particular the parliamentary officials as well as officers in government and electoral commissions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders B. Johansson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Anders B. Johansson
Secretary General

ALBANIA

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament / -
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	140 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	28 June 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

12 multi-member constituencies corresponding to Albania's 12 administrative regions (from 4 to 32 seats)

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

All the 140 members of the Parliament are elected through a proportional representation system within constituencies corresponding to the 12 administrative regions.

Seats are firstly allocated to electoral coalitions in a regional constituency using D'Hondt divisors (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, et seq.), and secondly to political parties within a coalition using Sainte-Laguë divisors (1, 3, 5, 7, 9, et seq.).

The threshold to win parliamentary representation is 3 percent for political parties and 5 per cent for pre-election coalitions.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate of the same party.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Albanian citizenship

Disqualifications: court decision of unlawful act, insanity, imprisonment, arrest

▶ Eligibility

- qualified electors
- age: 18 years
- Albanian citizenship
- permanent residence in country for at least six months

▶ Candidacy requirements

- nomination by legally recognized political or social organizations/associations
- support of 300 or more electors in the case of independent candidates

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 14 January 2009, President Bamir Topi called parliamentary elections for 28 June. They were the first to be held under the new electoral system adopted in April 2009. Previously a mixed electoral system under which 100 of the 140 seats in Parliament were filled by the first past the post system, all members are now elected through a proportional representation system. The revised electoral system encourages small parties to run in coalition with bigger ones rather than on their own.

In the previous elections held in July 2005, the Democratic Party of Albania (PDA) and its allies won a total of 73 seats, while the Socialist Party of Albania (PSS) and its allies won 64. Mr. Sali Berisha, who had served as President between 1992 and 1997, became Prime Minister.

Under Mr. Berisha's premiership, the country experienced an annual economic growth of 5 per cent. However, the economy was reportedly slowing down in 2009. In April 2009, Albania joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and formally applied for membership of the European Union (EU).

Four coalitions contested the 2009 elections. The PDA of Prime Minister Berisha formed the Alliance for Change (AN), comprising ten right wing parties. They included the Republican Party (PR) and the Party for Justice and Integration (PDI). The Christian Democratic Party of Albania formed another right wing coalition, the Pole of Freedom, with three other parties. The PSS of Mr. Edi Rama, Mayor of the capital Tirana, led the Unification for Change (BPN) with five other parties. It included the Unity for Human Rights Party (PBPNJ) and the Social Democratic Party (PSD). The Socialist Movement for Integration (LSI), led by former prime minister Ilir Meta, formed the Socialist Alliance with four small parties.

Like in the 2005 election, the leading forces in 2009 were the PDA and the PSS. Both parties pledged to work towards Albania's accession to the EU, which urged the country to hold free and fair elections. The country introduced a new electronic ID card in an effort to prevent election fraud. Both parties promised to create more jobs and stimulate further economic growth. Prime Minister Berisha promised to continue to tackle crime and corruption.

The PSS election campaign focused on personal criticism against the Prime Minister. Although PSS leader Rama had been accused of corruption while Mayor of Tirana, he pledged to lead a 'clean' government so as to improve the economic situation. The PSS promised to boost agricultural production, reduce poverty and reform the health and educational systems.

LSI leader Meta criticized the PSS for having cooperated with the PDA to pass the new electoral law as a ploy to marginalize small parties. The LSI promised to reduce unemployment and poverty, develop agriculture, and cut the value added tax (VAT) on basic foodstuffs by half, from 20 to 10 per cent.

Two people were killed during the election campaign. However, no violent incidents were reported on polling day. 50.77 per cent of the 3 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

Over 400 international observers monitored the polls. The Organisation for Security and Co operation in Europe (OSCE) concluded that the elections had failed to meet international standards, while noting "tangible progress" since the 2005 elections.

The final results gave 68 seats to the PDA. With its allies, it controlled a total of 70 seats. The PSS won 65 seats and its ally took one. The LSI took the remaining four seats. 23 women were elected.

The PSS alleged fraud and irregularities. On 4 July, LSI leader, Mr. Meta, announced that he would join the AN led government to avert a political crisis.

On 8 September, the newly elected Parliament held its first session. The session was boycotted by the PSS. Ms. Jozefina Topalli (PDA) was re-elected as Speaker.

On 16 September, the Parliament endorsed Mr. Berisha's new government, comprising his PDA, the LSI, the PR and the PDI.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	3,084,946	
Voters	1,566,079	50.77 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	46,903	
Valid votes	1,519,176	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

Alliance for Change (AN)	70
Democratic Party of Albania (PDA)	68
Republican Party (PR)	1
Party for Justice and Integration (PDI)	1
Unification for Change (BPN)	66
Socialist Party of Albania (PSS)	65
Unity for Human Rights Party (PBDNJ)	1
Social Democratic Party (PSD)	0
G99 (Group 99)	0
Socialist Movement for Integration (LSI)	4
Total	140

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	117	
Women	23	16.43 %
Total	140	

ANDORRA

General Council

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Consell general / General Council
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	28 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	26 April 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the General Council on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 7 multi-member (2 seats) constituencies corresponding to the country's parishes
- 1 national multi-member (14 seats) constituency

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

- simple majority vote applies in the parishes
 - proportional representation with rule of highest remainder applies in the national constituency
- Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected together with titular members.
- Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Andorran citizenship
- full possession of civil and political rights

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 18 years
- Andorran citizenship
- full possession of civil and political rights

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- other public responsibilities or functions such as that of civil servant

- any activity paid by the General Council, Government, public or semi-public body
- government assignment in excess of six months

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidatures must be submitted by at least 0.5% of the electors registered in each constituency (national or parish)
- each candidature must be backed by a minimum of 10 citizens

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 9 February 2009, Prime Minister Albert Pintat Santolària called parliamentary elections for 26 April.

In the previous elections, held in April 2005, the ruling Liberal Party of Andorra (PLA) took 14 of the 28 seats at stake. The coalition Citizens' Alternatives (L'Altèrnativa PS-RD) - comprising the Social Democrat Party (PS), the Democratic Renovation party (RD), the Group of Ordino Independents (GUPI) and independents - followed with 12 seats. The CDA-Segle 21 - a coalition of the Andorran Democratic Centre Party (CDA) and the 21st Century party (Segle 21) - took the remainder. In May, the General Council elected the PLA leader, Mr. Pintat Santolària, as the new prime minister with the backing of the PLA and CDA-Segle 21.

Two coalitions and three parties were vying for seats in the 2009 elections.

The PLA formed the Reformist Coalition (CR) under the leadership of outgoing Speaker Joan Gabriel Estany. The CR comprised the PLA, the New Centre (made up of former members of the CDA-Segle 21), the Lauredian Union (Unió Laurediana) and the Independents d'Ordino (IO).

The PS of Mr. Jaume Bartumeu Cassany campaigned under the name "PS, l'Alternative" with the GUPI and independents.

Two new parties took part in the 2009 elections: Andorra for Change (Andorra pel Canvi, APC), led by Mr. Eusebi Nomen Calvet, which had the backing of the RD, and the National Union of Progress of Mr. Tomas Pascual Casabosh. The Andorran Green Party (Els Verds) of Ms. Isabel Lozano Muñoz ran on its own.

The 2009 elections were held against the backdrop of the global financial crisis. Many OECD countries had pushed the Principality to renounce bank

secrecy. Although the country remained on the OECD's black list until the 2009 elections, in March 2009, along with Belgium and Liechtenstein, it agreed to revise the laws related to bank secrecy. Prime Minister Pintat pledged to pass a bill in the General Council on the sharing of fiscal information with other countries. However, parliament was dissolved before the outgoing legislature was able to vote on the bill.

Prime Minister Pintat called on voters to support the CR, in order to continue on the path of fiscal reform. PS leader Bartumeu promised to modify existing laws related to bank secrecy.

In all, 75.30 per cent of the country's 20,000 eligible voters turned out at the polls.

The PS and its allies won a total of 14 seats. The CR came in second with 11 seats. The AC took the three remaining seats. Nine women were elected.

On 19 May, the newly elected General Council held its first session and elected Mr. Josep Dallerès Codina (PS) as its new Speaker.

On 3 June, it elected Mr. Bartumeu (PS) as Prime Minister. On 9 June, he formed a government which comprised members of the PS and several independents who did not have a seat on the General Council.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	20,298
Voters	75.30 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	614
Valid votes	14,679

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Candi- dates	National votes	National votes %	Parish votes	Parish votes (%)
Social Democrat Party (PS) and its allies	28	6,610	45.03	6,457	44.69
Reformist Coalition (CR) - Independents of Ordino (IO)	28	4,747	32.34	5,021	34.70
Andorra for Change (APC)	24	2,768	18.86	2,508	17.36

	National seats	Parish seats	Total seats
Social Democrat Party (PS) and its allies	6	8	14
Reformist Coalition (CR) - Independents of Ordino (IO)	5	6	11
Andorra for Change (APC)	3	0	3
Total	14	14	28

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	19	
Women	9	32.14 %
Total	28	

Note:

Nine women were elected in April 2009. Two male members resigned to join the new government formed in June 2009. One of them was replaced by a woman, bringing the total number of women parliamentarians to 10 (35.71 per cent).

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Finance, management or business	12
Education profession	4
Legal profession	3
Physician, dentist	2
Civil service and local authority administration	2
Architect, surveyor, engineer	2
Other	3
Total	28

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

31 to 40 years	5
41 to 50 years	10
51 to 60 years	12
61 to 70 years	1
Total	28

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament / -
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	House of Representatives
Number of members	19 members - 17 directly elected - 2 others: one ex officio member (the Attorney General) and the Speaker
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	12 March 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all elective seats in the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

17 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

First past the post system.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections held within 120 days of the vacancy.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- citizens of Antigua and Barbuda

- citizens of the Commonwealth who have legally resided in the country for at least three years immediately preceding the qualifying date and who have met the relevant residency requirements

- residence in the constituency for at least one month immediately preceding the qualifying date.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 21 years

- citizens of Antigua and Barbuda
 - residence in the country for a minimum of 12 months immediately preceding the elections
 - ability to speak and, unless incapacitated by blindness or other physical condition, to read the English language with sufficient proficiency
 - ineligibility: allegiance to a foreign State, undischarged bankruptcy, insanity, death sentence or imprisonment for more than one year, electoral offences or certain crimes within the preceding 10 years
- ▶ **Incompatibilities**
- certain public offices
 - electoral responsibilities
 - minister of religion
- ▶ **Candidacy requirements**
- nomination by individuals or political parties

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 9 February 2009, Prime Minister Winston Baldwin Spencer asked Governor General Louise Lake-Tack to dissolve the House of Representatives. On 19 February, the Prime Minister announced that elections would be held on 12 March in the twin islands of 85,000 inhabitants.

In the previous elections held in March 2004, the United Progressive Party (UPP) of Mr. Spencer won 12 of the 17 seats at stake and the Barbuda People's Movement (BPM, an ally of the UPP, took one. Those elections marked the end of the rule of the Antigua Labour Party (ALP). ALP leader, Mr. Lester Bird, and his father, Vere Cornwall Bird, had been at the helm of the government almost without interruption for over forty years.

A total of 42 candidates contested the 2009 elections. At stake were 16 seats in Antigua and one seat in Barbuda. Both the UPP and the ALP nominated candidates in all 16 constituencies in Antigua. The BPM put forward a candidate in the sole seat in Barbuda, which the ALP also contested. The Organisation for National Development (OND) contested the general elections for the first time, fielding four candidates. Four independent candidates also ran.

The elections once again saw a duel between Prime Minister Spencer's UPP and the ALP, led by former prime minister Lester Bird. The 71-year-old ALP

leader vowed to hand over the party leadership if the ALP lost the elections.

In its manifesto the UPP promised to create public companies to promote "economic democracy". The ALP, for its part, pledged to abolish personal income tax (reintroduced by the UPP government). It promised to introduce a major economic stimulus package, as well as secure EC\$500 million (US\$187.2 million) in annual foreign investment.

The 2009 elections were held against the backdrop of fraud scandals involving two banks owned by a US-born banker, Mr. Allen Stanford. Mr. Stanford, who is also the country's largest private employer, was accused by financial regulators in the United States of misrepresenting the safety and liquidity of uninsured certificates of deposits. The ALP accused the Government of failing to supervise and regulate the banks owned by Mr. Stanford, an accusation refuted by Finance Minister Errol Cort.

On 12 March 2009, 80.27 per cent of the 52,000 eligible voters turned out at the polls.

The Organization of American States (OAS) electoral observer mission noted voting delays in six constituencies. The Electoral Commission attributed the delays to a breakdown of the machinery used to print election-related material, including the voters' list. The OAS concluded, however, that the delays had not affected the overall election results. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) added that voting took place "without intimidation or harassment" in "an orderly, free and peaceful manner". A member of the Electoral Commission, Bishop Ewing Dorsette, resigned citing what he termed "the debacle of the general election".

The final results gave nine seats to the UPP. Finance Minister Cort (UPP) lost his seat to ALP leader Bird, who subsequently announced that he would become the opposition leader in the new House of Representatives. The ALP increased its strength from four to seven seats. One woman was elected.

On 13 March, Mr. Spencer (UPP) was sworn in for a new term as Prime Minister. His cabinet was sworn in on 16 March, and comprised seven members, down from 11, in an effort to cut costs in the light of the economic turmoil.

On 21 March, the ALP filed petitions at the High Court to overturn the results in four constituencies where it believed that the vote had been rigged. It

pointed to an unusually high turnout figure (over 98 per cent) in Prime Minister Spencer's constituency despite a late start to voting.

On 27 April, the newly elected House of Representatives held its first session and re-elected Ms. Gisele Isaac-Arrindell as its Speaker. The Senate, whose members are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition, was also renewed. Five women were appointed to the Senate, led by Senate President, Ms. Hazlyn Mason Francis.

On 31 March 2010, the High Court ruled that the election of three of the four parliamentarians - including Prime Minister Spencer - was invalid. The UPP promptly sought and received a stay of the judgment to the High Court. The three members continue to serve in the House of Representatives until the UPP's case is heard and determined in the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	52,183	
Voters	41,885	80.27 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	201	
Valid votes	41,684	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
United Progressive Party (UPP)	21,239	50.95	9
Antigua Labour Party (ALP)	19,657	47.16	7
Barbuda People's Movement (BPM)	474	1.14	1
Total			17

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	17	
Women	2	10.53 %
Total	19	

Note:

The two women include: one woman out of 17 members directly elected, and an appointed member (the Speaker of the House). The number of men includes one appointed member (Attorney General).

ARGENTINA

Chamber of Deputies

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congreso de la nación / National Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Cámara de Diputados / Chamber of Deputies
Number of members	257 directly elected
Term of House	4 years; one-half of the membership is renewed every 2 years
Date of elections	28 June 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Early elections were held to renew one-half of the seats (127) in the Chamber of Deputies. Elections to the Chamber of Deputies had previously taken place on 28 October 2007.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

24 multi-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list system, with proportional distribution of seats according to the d'Hondt method.

To be awarded a seat, a party must obtain 3 per cent of the votes cast in a constituency.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members.

Voting is compulsory, with some exceptions (old age, illness, great distance from polling stations); penalties for abstention consist of a fine (between 50 and 500 Argentine pesos) and prohibition to hold public office or employment for three years from the election.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Argentine citizenship (request for registration on electoral lists for naturalised citizens three years after acquiring citizenship); since 1997, Argentines living abroad can register to vote.

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 25 years
- Argentine citizenship for at least 2 years
- birth in the district where running or residence there for at least 2 years immediately before elections

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Government minister
- provincial governor
- Government minister
- provincial governor
- Persons excluded from the electoral registers as a result of legal provisions in force;
- Members of the armed forces;
- Members of the State security forces;
- Judges and permanent staff of the judicial branch;
- Directors or executives of companies that have a concession to provide services or public works for the State, provinces, Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, municipalities or self-sufficient or decentralized entities or of companies that deal in games of chance;
- Persons tried for genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, acts of unlawful repression that constitute grave human rights violations, torture, enforced disappearance of persons, abduction of children and other serious human rights violations or criminal behaviour provided for in the Rome Statute and falling within the purview of the International Criminal Court, for crimes committed between 24 March 1976 and 10 December 1983;
- Persons convicted of the crimes described above even in cases where the court ruling could not be executed.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by political party or coalition of parties

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 13 March 2009, President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner proposed to hold early parliamentary elections on 28 June instead of 28 October. She argued that early elections would allow the government to focus more on solving the country's economic woes and less on politics. Opposition parties criticized the move, arguing that the President was calling elections before her popularity waned. Shortly before her announcement the date of local elections in Buenos Aires was moved to 28 June so as to hold local and

national elections separately. Analysts said that was designed to give more time for the party of the President's opponent, Buenos Aires Mayor Mauricio Macri, to prepare for the national elections.

At stake in the 2009 parliamentary elections were 127 of the 257 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and one third of the 72 seats in the Senate.

In the previous elections held in October 2007, the Victory Front (FV) of the then President Néstor Kirchner won 62 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and five in the Senate. After the elections, the FV controlled 116 and 11 seats respectively. Following the elections, the Civic Coalition Confederation held 18 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and two in the Senate, while the Radical Civic Union (UCR) had 24 and seven seats respectively. The remaining seats went to small parties. President Kirchner's wife, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, won the presidential elections, becoming the first elected female president of the country.

President Fernández de Kirchner initially enjoyed high popularity. However, her popularity reportedly dwindled after she introduced a tax on soya bean exports in March 2008. It triggered four months of road blockades and protests by farmers. The global economic crisis and plummeting soya bean and wheat prices hit Argentina's exports. It slowed down annual economic growth to 6.8 per cent in 2008, down from 8.8 per cent the previous year. In October 2008, President Fernández de Kirchner announced a plan to nationalize the country's private pension funds amounting to US\$ 24 billion. She argued that the move would protect pensions from turmoil in the global financial markets. Her opponents criticized the measure, claiming that the government was trying to use the funds to pay back its debt obligations.

Former president Néstor Kirchner was running for a seat in the Chamber of Deputies on an FV ticket. He urged voters to support his party, saying that the 2009 poll was "a choice between a return to the past and the consolidation of a national project", referring to the country's economic crisis of 2001.

The FV was challenged by the 'Pro coalition' (Republican Proposal), comprising dissidents from the FV. The 'Pro coalition' was led by Mr. Macri, and included a wealthy entrepreneur, Francisco de Narvaez. It pledged to fight crime. It criticized the FV for using "symbolic candidates" in the election campaign, arguing that many of its famous political figures would not play an active role in Congress.

Several farmers ran for the 2009 elections under the banner of the Argentine Agrarian Federation. They promised to cut export taxes on agricultural products.

In all, 74.36 per cent of the country's 28 million registered voters turned out for the elections to the Chamber of Deputies while 72.39 per cent of the 8.5 million registered voters cast their ballot for the Senate elections. Polling took place without any major incidents.

Following the elections, the FV controlled 87 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 35 seats in the Senate. Mr. Néstor Kirchner conceded defeat and resigned as FV leader. The 'Pro coalition' won 11 seats in the Chamber of Deputies but none in the Senate.

On 3 December, the newly elected members took up their seats in Congress. The Chamber of Deputies re-elected Mr. Eduardo Alfredo Fellner (FV) as its new Speaker, while the Vice-President of the country, Mr. Julio César Cobos, continues to serve as President of the Senate, as stipulated by the Constitution.

Election results and statistics

► Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	27,938,986	
Voters	20,774,060	74.36 %
Valid votes	19,431,216	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats 2009	Total seats
Victory Front (FV) - PJ	36	87
Radical Civic Union (UCR)	27	43
Federal Peronist	20	29
Civic Coalition	7	19
Pro coalition' (Republican Proposal)	8	11
Civic Front for Santiago	3	7
Peronist	1	6
Socialist Party	1	6
GEN	2	5
New Popular and Social Encounter	2	5
Project South Movement	4	5
Concordia Front for Renewal	3	3
Neuquino Popular Movement	2	3
Popular Unity	1	3
Movement for Federal Thinking	1	2
Dialogue	0	2
Justicialist Party - La Pampa Civic and Social Front (FREPAM)	2	2
Free citizens of the South	0	2
Union for Cordoba Federal	2	2
Catamarca Civic and Social Front	0	1
Corrientes Liberal Party	0	1
Democratic Party of Mendoza	1	1
Dialogue for Buenos Aires	0	1
Dialogue Party - Forja	0	1
Federal Consensus	0	1
Federal Peronist Front	1	1
Front for All	0	1
Fuegino Federal	1	1
Peronism of Jujuy	0	1
Progressive Democracy	1	1
Progressive Project	0	1
Salta "Somos Todos"	1	1
Salta Renewal	0	1
Values for my country	0	1
Total	127	257

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	80	
Women	47	37.01 %
Total	127	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Legal profession	64
Clerical, secretarial, administration	31
Education profession	28
Agriculture/farming	20
Economist	15
Architect, surveyor, engineer	15
Entrepreneurs	13
Physician, dentist	11
Journalism, broadcasting, media	6
Research/sciences	6
Social worker	3
Trade union official	2
Finance, management or business	2
Political party official	2
International civil servant	1
Writer, literary, artist	1
IT/technology	1
Others	36
Total	257

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	1
31 to 40 years	21
41 to 50 years	78
51 to 60 years	105
61 to 70 years	42
Over 70 years	6
Unknown	4
Total	257

ARGENTINA

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congreso de la nación / National Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Senado / Senate
Number of members	72 directly elected
Term of House	6 years; one-third of the membership is renewed every 2 years
Date of elections	28 June 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Early elections were held to renew one-third (24) of the seats in the Senate. Elections to the Senate had previously taken place on 28 October 2007.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

24 multi-member (3 seats) constituencies, corresponding to the country's 23 provinces and the Federal Capital (Buenos Aires).

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Majority vote in one round, using party lists.

The list which obtains the highest percentage of votes in each constituency will be granted two seats, while the list with the second highest percentage of votes will take the remaining one seat.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Argentine citizenship (request for registration on electoral lists for naturalised citizens three years after acquiring citizenship); since 1997, Argentines living abroad can register to vote.

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 30 years

- Argentine citizenship

- birth in province where running or residence there for at least 2 years preceding the elections

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Government minister
- provincial governor
- Government minister
- provincial governor
- Government minister
- provincial governor
- Persons excluded from the electoral registers as a result of legal provisions in force;
- Members of the armed forces;
- Members of the State security forces;
- Judges and permanent staff of the judicial branch;
- Directors or executives of companies that have a concession to provide services or public works for the State, provinces, Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, municipalities or self-sufficient or decentralized entities or of companies that deal in games of chance;
- Persons tried for genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, acts of unlawful repression that constitute grave human rights violations, torture, enforced disappearance of persons, abduction of children and other serious human rights violations or criminal behaviour provided for in the Rome Statute and falling within the purview of the International Criminal Court, for crimes committed between 24 March 1976 and 10 December 1983;
- Persons convicted of the crimes described above even in cases where the court ruling could not be executed.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by political party or coalition of parties

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 13 March 2009, President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner proposed to hold early parliamentary elections on 28 June instead of 28 October. She argued that early elections would allow the government to focus more on solving the country's economic woes and less on politics. Opposition parties criticized the move, arguing that the President was calling elections before her popularity waned. Shortly before her announcement the date of local elections in Buenos Aires was moved to 28 June so as to hold local and national elections separately. Analysts said that was designed to give more time for the party of the President's opponent, Buenos Aires Mayor Mauricio Macri, to prepare for the national elections.

At stake in the 2009 parliamentary elections were 127 of the 257 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and one third of the 72 seats in the Senate.

In the previous elections held in October 2007, the Victory Front (FV) of the then President Néstor Kirchner won 62 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and five in the Senate. After the elections, the FV controlled 116 and 11 seats respectively. Following the elections, the Civic Coalition Confederation held 18 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and two in the Senate, while the Radical Civic Union (UCR) had 24 and seven seats respectively. The remaining seats went to small parties. President Kirchner's wife, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, won the presidential elections, becoming the first elected female president of the country.

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Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	8,474,844	
Voters	6,134,998	72.39 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Front for Victory	4
Civic and Social Front	2
Civic Federal Front-UCR-CONFÉ	2
Civic Front Alliance	2
Front for All	2
Integration Front Alliance	2
Justicialist Party (PJ)	2
Radical Civic Union (UCR)	2
Santa Fe Federal Alliance	2
Alliance - La Pampa Civic and Social Front (FREPAM)	1
Alliance Front Civic and Social Accord	1
Progressive Civic and Social Front Alliance	1
Rally for Corrientes - Civic and Social Accord	1
Total	24

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	16	
Women	8	33.33 %
Total	24	

BOLIVIA

Chamber of Deputies

Parliament name	Asamblea Legislativa Plurinacional /
(generic / translated)	Plurinational Legislative Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Cámara de Diputados / Chamber of Deputies
Number of members	130 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	6 December 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Early elections were held for all the seats in the Chamber of Deputies following the adoption of a new Constitution in January 2009. The previous elections had been held in December 2005.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

- 68 single-member constituencies
- 8 single-member constituencies for special seats
- 9 multi-member constituencies (for 54 seats) corresponding to the country's departments

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

- First past the post vote for 76 seats.
- party-list proportional representation vote with a double quotient system.

Only lists which receive a number of valid votes in excess of the simple electoral quotient may share the allocation of seats. A second quotient is then computed which only takes account of the votes obtained by the participating lists and which determines the exact allocation of seats, with each list receiving as many seats as the number of times it fulfils this quotient. Seats not filled in this first count are attributed to parties with the greatest remainders. Lists eliminated in the first count may participate in this second count.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members of the Chamber of Deputies or, failing this, by the "next-in-line" candidate on the same party list.

Voting is compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Bolivian citizenship

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 25 years
- Bolivian citizenship by birth
- fulfillment of military obligations
- literacy
- full possession of civil rights
- ineligibility: arrest, imprisonment

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Minister of the Government
- diplomat
- civil servant or employee
- military or police officer on active duty
- contractor for public works or services
- manager or administrator of a State-related company or enterprise
- certain ecclesiastics

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by political parties, coalition of parties or duly-recognised civic institutions

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2009 elections were the first to be held under the new Constitution adopted in January 2009. The previous National Congress was replaced by the Plurinational Legislative Assembly, comprising a 130-member Chamber of Deputies and a 36-member Chamber of Senators (up from 27). A referendum was held at the same time.

In the previous elections, which were held in December 2005, the Movement for Socialism (MAS) led by Mr. Evo Morales took 72 of the 130 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 13 of the 27 seats in the Chamber of Senators. The Social and Democratic Power (PODEMOS) party took 43 seats in the Chamber and 12 in the Chamber of Senators. The remaining seats went to the National Unity Front (UNF) and the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR). In the presidential elections, Mr. Morales (MAS) defeated PODEMOS candidate Jorge Quiroga, becoming the country's first indigenous president. At his swearing-in in January 2006, he pledged to "re-found Bolivia" by

enacting a new constitution and retaking control of the country's natural resources.

In July 2006, the MAS won the elections to the Constituent Assembly that was established to re-write the Constitution within a year. However, the drafting process was delayed by protests. Opposition parties successfully blocked an article allowing the president to be indefinitely re-elected, arguing that it would hand a life-time presidency to Mr. Morales. The opposition further argued that the some articles of the draft constitution favoured only the country's indigenous majority. These articles were nevertheless maintained in the final draft. In November 2008, the draft constitution was finally approved by the MAS and its allies. Street protests opposing the draft turned violent, killing three people.

On 25 January 2009, Bolivians voted in a referendum on the new Constitution, which they approved by 61 per cent of the votes. The Constitution grants greater autonomy to Bolivia's nine departments and to indigenous communities, while reinforcing State control over key economic sectors. It was opposed by many Bolivians of European or mixed-race descent. On 7 February, President Morales enacted the Constitution.

The new Constitution required early presidential and parliamentary elections to be held on 6 December 2009. Mr. Morales was allowed to run since, according to the new Constitution, the presidential term served under the previous Constitution did not count.

In the 2009 elections, President Morales' MAS was challenged by the Plan for Progress party (PP) of former state governor and former army captain Manfred Reyes Villa and the UNF led by Mr. Samuel Doria Medina. PODEMOS leader Jorge Quiroga announced that he would not run for the presidency.

President Morales urged voters to support the MAS so that he could pursue his reforms. He campaigned on the government's record, citing subsidies for schoolchildren and the elderly and an allowance for new mothers. He pledged to continue them in his new term. A quarter of Bolivia's 10 million inhabitants benefited from the subsidies in 2009.

Despite the global economic crisis, higher prices for natural gas and minerals helped the country sustain its economic growth in 2009. Mr. Morales - who had nationalized the gas, oil, mining and telecommunication sectors - pledged to continue the reforms by nationalizing electricity firms. He

also promised to develop the iron and lithium industries to help his country export value-added products instead of raw materials. He called on voters to support change and urged them to reject neo-liberalism.

PP leader Reyes pledged a one-time payment of US\$ 1,000 to one million families and said he would maintain the subsidies introduced by Mr. Morales' administration. He also promised to reduce unemployment and to attract more foreign companies to Bolivia by giving investors more legal security. The former army captain also vowed to tackle crime by enhancing the army's role in domestic security. He argued that Mr. Morales' re-election could lead to a "totalitarian regime" under which the legislature would be reduced to "a decoration". Mr. Reyes faced a threat of jail on corruption charges made in the run-up to the elections. In January 2010, the Supreme Court ordered the arrest of Mr. Reyes who reportedly fled to the United States.

The UNF promised to develop an organic food industry to diversify the country's economy and to promote tourism. UNF leader Doria, a wealthy businessman, pledged to invest US\$ 175 million over five years to modernize the education system and to open nine universities. He vowed to ease the divisions between the indigenous community in the west and the non-indigenous community in the east.

Despite several attempts to form a coalition, opposition parties failed to unite, for the further benefit of the MAS.

In addition to the 5 million registered voters in the country, Bolivians in Argentina, Brazil, Spain and the United States were allowed to vote for the first time.

The MAS secured a majority in both chambers. It won 88 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 26 seats in the Chamber of Senators. The PP followed with 37 and 10 seats respectively. The UNF took three seats in the Chamber of Deputies while the remainder went to small parties.

In the presidential elections, Mr. Morales was re-elected with over 60 per cent of the votes.

On 20 January 2010, the newly elected Plurinational Legislative Assembly was convened. The Chamber of Deputies elected Mr. Héctor Arce (MAS) as its new Speaker while the Chamber of Senators elected Ms. Ana María

Romero (MAS) as its new President.

Election results and statistics

► Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Movement for Socialism (MAS)	88
Plan for Progress (PP)	37
National Unity Front (UNF)	3
Social Alliance (AS)	2
Total	130

► Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	101	
Women	29	22.31 %
Total	130	

BOLIVIA

Chamber of Senators

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Asamblea Legislativa Plurinacional / Plurinational Legislative Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Cámara de Senadores / Chamber of Senators
Number of members	36 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	6 December 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Early elections were held for all elective seats in the Chamber of Senators following the adoption of a new Constitution in January 2009. The previous elections had been held in December 2005.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

9 multi-member (4 seats each) constituencies corresponding to the country's departments.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list system. Seats are allocated according to the d'Hondt method in each department.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members of Congress or, failing this, by the "next-in-line" candidate on the same party list.

Voting is compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Bolivian citizenship

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 35 years
- Bolivian citizenship by birth
- fulfilment of military obligations
- literacy
- full possession of civil rights
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▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Government minister
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Election results and statistics

► Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Movement for Socialism (MAS)	26
Plan for Progress (PP)	10
Total	36

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	21	
Women	15	41.67 %
Total	36	

BOTSWANA

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	National Assembly / -
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	63 members - 57 directly elected - 6 others: - Four members nominated by the President and elected by the National Assembly; - Two ex officio members (the President of the Republic and the Attorney General). The statutory number of members includes the Speaker, who may be appointed from outside the National Assembly.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	16 October 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all elective seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

57 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

First past the post system.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Botswana citizenship

- residence in country for continuous period of not less than 12 months prior to registration as elector or residence in country at time of registration for native

Disqualifications: insanity, allegiance to a foreign State, death sentence,

imprisonment exceeding six months, election-connected offence.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 21 years
- Botswana citizenship
- ability to speak and read English well enough to take an active part in the proceedings of the National Assembly
- ineligibility: undischarged bankruptcy

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- membership of House of Chiefs
- certain public offices
- election-connected office

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by two electors of constituency
- support by seven electors of constituency
- monetary deposit reimbursed if the candidate obtains 1/20 or more of the votes cast in the constituency

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The October 2009 elections were the first to be held under President Seretse Khama Ian Khama, who succeeded President Festus Mogae in April 2008. Incumbent President Khama, a former army commander, reportedly enjoyed considerable support due to the popularity of his father, Seretse Khama, who was Botswana's first post-independence President. The President is elected by the National Assembly.

In the previous elections held in October 2004, the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), led by the then President Mogae, won 44 of the 57 directly elected seats. The main opposition force, the Botswana National Front (BNF), took 12 seats and the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) won the remaining seat.

The BDP has been in power since the country gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1966. Despite some infighting, it was widely expected to win a landslide victory in the 2009 elections; the opposition forces were also divided.

The BDP fielded candidates in all 57 constituencies while the BNF and the

BCP nominated 48 and 42 candidates respectively. Although the BCP was in coalition with the Botswana Alliance Movement (BAM), these parties fielded their candidates separately. Two parties not represented in parliament - the Botswana People's Party (BPP) and the Marx Engels Lenin Stalin (MELS) Movement of Botswana - fielded six and four candidates respectively. A total of 15 independent candidates, including one former BNF member who had been expelled from the party shortly before the elections, were also running.

The 2009 elections were held against the backdrop of the global economic crisis, which severely affected the economy of the world's largest diamond producer. Botswana's economy shrank by 11.5 per cent in the fiscal year ending in June 2009.

The BDP pledged to secure the people's future and portrayed itself as a party to be trusted. It ran on its record, citing economic achievement, better education and training opportunities. It pledged to continue to fight poverty and unemployment.

The BNF, which considers itself as the "true party of the people", pledged to fight for democracy and establish a strong civil society with better social welfare. It pledged to provide decent housing and work for the poor.

The BCP-BAM coalition promised to halt the economic downturn and pledged to bring democracy and prosperity instead of dictatorship and economic collapse.

The BPP promised to boost the country's economy through agricultural development and manufacturing. The MELS Movement of Botswana, led by Mr. Mogae Tawanana, pledged to fight imperialism and exploitation of the masses and enhance rural development.

In all, 76.71 per cent of the 723,000 registered voters in this country of 1.9 million inhabitants turned out at the polls.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) concluded that the elections had been "credible, peaceful, free and fair". It nevertheless noted a "slow polling process" and urged the election commission to introduce a simplified and more voter-friendly voting process.

The final results gave the BDP 45 seats. The BNF took six seats, followed by the

BCP and the BAM which took four seats and one seat respectively. For the first time in Botswana's history, an independent candidate (a former BNF member) as well as a father and son entered the National Assembly. Two women were elected.

On 20 October, President Khama was sworn in for a second term. He subsequently appointed four more members, including two women.

On 21 October, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session. Ms. Margaret Nnananyana Nasha, an appointed member, was elected as its new Speaker, becoming the first woman to assume the post. Her candidature had been endorsed by the BDP.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	723,617	
Voters	555,078	76.71 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	10,431	
Valid votes	544,647	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Candidates	Votes	Seats
Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)	57	290,099	45
Botswana National Front (BNF)	48	119,509	6
Botswana Congress Party (BCP)	42	104,302	4
Botswana Alliance Movement (BAM)	4	12,387	1
Independents	15	10,464	1
Total			57

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	58	
Women	5	7.94 %
Total	63	

Note:

Breakdown of the number of women: Two directly elected members, two appointed members and the Attorney General.

BULGARIA

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Narodno Sabranie / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	240 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	5 July 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

31 multi-member constituencies (seats according to population).

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

- 31 members are elected using the first-past-the-post (FPTP) system;
- 209 members are elected under the proportional representation (PR) system using the closed party list. These seats are distributed according to the Hare-Niemeyer method.

Only parties and coalitions that obtain at least 4 per cent of the nationwide popular vote are entitled to parliamentary representation.

Vacancies for the PR seats are filled by "next-in-line" candidates. Vacant FPTP seats are filled through by-elections. However, if a member elected under the FPTP resigns to take up a ministerial post, his/her seat will be filled by the "next-in-line" candidate of the same party from the proportional representation system.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: at least 18 years on election day
 - Bulgarian citizenship
- Disqualifications: imprisonment, judicial interdiction

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: at least 21 years on election day

- Bulgarian citizenship

Disqualifications: imprisonment, judicial interdiction, persons holding any other citizenship.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- State posts

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Candidacies by political parties or individuals

- Political parties: a list comprising a minimum of 15,000 electors supporting the party registration

- Independent candidates: candidacy supported by a minimum of 10,000 electors of the constituency

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 28 April 2009, President Georgi Parvanov announced that parliamentary elections would be held on 5 July. The July 2009 elections were the first to be held since the country's accession to the European Union (EU) in January 2007. They were also taking place under a revised electoral law. Previously, members of parliament had been elected under an entirely proportional representation system. Henceforth, 31 of the 240 members are elected by the first-past-the post (FPTP) system, and the rest under the proportional representation system. The original revision of the electoral system included raising the threshold for coalitions to win parliamentary representation from four to eight per cent. But this provision was vetoed by President Georgi Parvanov.

In the previous elections held in July 2005, the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) led the Coalition for Bulgaria (CB) which comprised eight parties. The CB took 82 of the 240 seats at stake. The BSP leader Mr. Sergey Stanishev became Prime Minister and formed a coalition government with the CB, the National Movement Simeon II (NMSS, 53 seats) and the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS, an ethnic Turkish party which took 34 seats). In October 2006, Mr. Parvanov (BSP) was re-elected in the run-off presidential elections, ahead of Mr. Volen Siderov of the ATAKA Party. In October 2008, the NMSS changed its name to National Movement for Stability and Progress (NMSP) and re-elected the former king, Simeon Saxe-Coburg, as its leader.

Twenty parties and coalitions took part in the 2009 elections. The parties in the outgoing government were challenged by the centre-right opposition force, the Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria Party (GERB). The

GERB was not represented in the outgoing National Assembly but won the most votes in the June 2009 elections to the European Parliament. Other major contenders included the ATAKA Party, the Blue Coalition (BC) and the Order, Lawfulness, Justice Party (RZS).

Under the country's electoral law, candidates enjoy from the same immunity as parliamentarians. Shortly before the 2009 elections, the courts released from prison several candidates facing serious criminal charges such as embezzlement, the trafficking of women or drug dealing. The participation of these candidates raised concerns about the legitimacy and fairness of the vote.

In 2008, the EU froze more than 500 million euros in aid that was destined for improving agriculture and infrastructure. In its view, the government was not taking sufficient measures to tackle corruption and organized crime. The country's economy was further damaged by the recent global economic crisis and was expected to shrink by more than 3 per cent in 2009.

The GERB, led by Mr. Boyko Borisov, Mayor of the capital Sofia, promised to work with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to revive the economy and jail all those found guilty of embezzling European Union funds. It pledged to bring accountability to government. The BC - formed by the Union of Democratic Forces and the Democrats for a Strong Bulgaria - was co-led by former prime minister Ivan Kostov and Mr. Martin Dimitrov, a member of the European Parliament. This centre-right coalition also campaigned on an anti-corruption platform. Mr. Kostov attacked Prime Minister Stanishev for refusing to debate economic issues during the election campaign.

Prime Minister Stanishev (BSP), who once again led the CB, ran on the government's record, citing the country's accession to the EU. He argued that the GERB and the BC would threaten Bulgarians' social protection through the privatization of the energy and health care sectors and reduction of salaries and pensions.

DPS leader Mr. Ahmed Dogan claimed that supporting the opposition would mean a return to the Revival Process that was used in the late 1980s to assimilate Bulgarian Muslims (both ethnic Bulgarians and ethnic Turks) by forcing them to take Slavic-sounding names. Prime Minister Stanishev accused the DPS of playing the ethnic card. GERB leader Borisov pledged to abolish dual citizenship, arguing that it allowed the DPS to get many votes from Bulgarians usually living in Turkey, while other Bulgarians abroad were

not allowed to vote.

The RZS of Mr. Yane Yanev promised to work for judicial and financial reforms. Mr. Yanev accused the BSP of making a pre-election agreement with Roma leaders to assure itself of receiving the votes of the entire Roma community.

The ATAKA Party, an ultranationalist party campaigned on an anti-EU platform. It accused the DPS of conducting what its leader Mr. Siderov termed an "anti-Bulgarian policy", and pledged to tackle "islamization" and corruption.

On 5 July, 60.95 per cent of 7.1 million eligible voters turned out at the polls. Several irregularities such as vote buying were reported on the election day.

Observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) observed the polls. They concluded that the elections had been generally in accordance with international standards while recommending further efforts to ensure the integrity of the election process.

Six political entities passed the 4-per-cent threshold required to gain parliamentary representation. The GERB took a total of 116 seats. The parties in the outgoing government - the CB and the DPS - won 40 and 38 seats respectively while the NMSP failed to win parliamentary representation, taking only 2.9 per cent of the votes. Mr. Saxe-Coburg stepped down as NMSP leader. The ATAKA Party, the BC and the RZS took 21, 15 and ten seats respectively. 50 women were elected.

At its inaugural sitting on 14 July, the National Assembly elected Ms. Tsetska Tsacheva as its new Speaker. She thus became the first woman to assume the post in Bulgaria.

On 16 July, the GERB announced that it would form a minority government on its own. On 27 July, the National Assembly approved Mr. Borisov's government. It was supported by the ATAKA Party, the BC and the RZS.

Election results and statistics**► Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	7,129,965	
Voters	4,345,450	60.95 %
Valid votes	4,226,194	

► Distribution of seats according to political group

	% votes	Majority seats	Propor- tional seats	Total seats	Seats Feb. 2010
Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria Party (GERB)	43.06	26	90	116	117
Coalition for Bulgaria (CB)	19.14	0	40	40	40
Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS)	15.79	5	33	38	37
ATAKA Party	10.05	0	21	21	21
Blue Coalition (BC)	7.18	0	15	15	14
Order, Lawfulness, Justice Party (RZS)	4.78	0	10	10	0
Independents		0	0	0	11
Total		31	209	240	240

Note:

On 16 February 2010, the Constitutional Court ruled to invalidate over 18,000 votes cast in the 2009 elections in Turkey due to electoral process. This resulted in the cancellation of the mandates of three members, including one held by the Order, Law and Justice Party (RZS). Consequently, the RZS' share was reduced to nine seats, one fewer than the ten seats required to form a parliamentary group. RZS members therefore sit as independents. "Seats Feb. 2010" refers to the final composition of the parliament after the court decision.

► Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	190	
Women	50	20.83 %
Total	240	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Architect, surveyor, engineer	52
Economist	47
Legal profession	45
Physician, dentist	25
Education profession	16
Journalism, broadcasting, media	7
Research/sciences	6
Entrepreneur	5
Others	37
Total	240

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

20 to 29 years	12
30 to 39 years	53
40 to 49 years	92
50 to 59 years	62
60 to 69 years	20
Over 70 years	1
Total	240

CHILE

Chamber of Deputies

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congreso Nacional / National Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Cámara de Diputados / Chamber of Deputies
Number of members	120 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	13 December 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Chamber of Deputies on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

60 multi-member (2 seats) constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Closed party-list majority system, with seats allocated binomially, as follows:

- if the majority party obtains more than two-thirds of the valid votes cast, it is entitled to the two seats of the constituency
- if it obtains less than two-thirds, it is entitled to one seat and the second seat goes to the second-placed party

Vacancies of elective seats arising between general elections are filled by a nominee selected by the same party.

Voting is compulsory, failure to do so leading to a possible fine.

Chileans living overseas are not entitled to vote.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
 - Chilean citizenship (or foreigners residing in Chile for more than 5 years)
- Disqualifications: death sentence, personal restraint or penal servitude, insanity, criminal conviction entailing a grave penalty (three years and one day or more)

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 21 years
- Chilean citizenship
- completion of secondary education or the equivalent
- residence in the constituency for at least two years prior to the election date

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- office of Minister of State
- certain public or State-related posts
- government contractor

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- membership of political party or coalition of parties, although independent candidatures also possible;
- each party or coalition can nominate two candidates per constituency;
- independent candidates require support of electorate equalling at least 0.5% of the votes cast in their constituency at the previous elections

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2009 parliamentary and presidential elections were the first to be held since the death of Augusto Pinochet, the country's dictator between 1973 and 1990. The centre-left Coalition for Democracy (CPD) had led the country since 1990.

In the previous elections, which were held in December 2005, the CPD won 65 of the 120 seats in the Chamber of Deputies; it also won 11 of the 20 seats renewed in the Senate, making a total of 20 seats in the full 38-member Senate. The CPD comprised the Socialist Party (PS), the Christian Democrat Party of Chile (PDC), the Party for Democracy (PPD) and the Radical Social-Democratic Party (PRSD). Its main rival, the centre-right Alliance for Chile (APC), took 54 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and eight of the seats up for renewal, for a total of 17 seats in the Senate. The APC comprised the Independent Democratic Union (UDI) and the National Renovation Party (RN). In the presidential elections, CPD candidate Michelle Bachelet won over RN candidate Sebastián Piñera Echenique, becoming the first woman to assume the post in Chile.

In 2008, the country's economy was severely hit by the global economic crisis but recovered in short order thanks to copper revenues. Ms. Bachelet's

administration was dealt a blow in October 2008 when centre-right parties won more mayorships than the CPD in local elections.

Although Ms. Bachelet enjoyed high popularity - she had a 77 per cent approval rating shortly before the elections - she was constitutionally barred from running for a second consecutive term. The CPD backed former president Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle, whose father, Mr. Eduardo Frei Montalva (PDC), had also served as president in the 1960s. A newly created centre-right alliance, the Coalition for Change (CC), backed Mr. Piñera. The CC included the RN, the UDI, ChileFirst and the List B Independents. In addition, two other coalitions - Clean Chile-Vote Happy and the New Majority for Chile - and the Pactfree Independents were also vying for seats.

No centre-right candidate had won the presidency since 1958. However, in 2009, internal splits in the CPD reportedly gave a boost to the centre-right camp. In addition to the CPD's Eduardo Frei, two left-wing candidates were running for president. In May 2009, Mr. Marco Enríquez-Ominami Gumucio announced that he would run as an independent candidate representing the "progressive left". The CPD criticized Mr. Enríquez for splitting the vote on the left. Mr. Enríquez is a son of Mr. Miguel Enríquez Espinosa, the founder of the Revolutionary Left Movement (MIR) who was assassinated by Pinochet's Junta. Mr. Jorge Arrate MacNiven of the Communist Party (CP) led a far-left coalition, Together We Can Go Further, comprising over 50 parties and organizations, including the CP, the Humanist Party, the Christian Left among others.

Despite Ms. Bachelet's popularity, the CPD's candidate appeared to face an uphill battle to overcome memories of his first presidency (1994-2000), which had been overshadowed by the Asian financial crisis and soaring unemployment. He promised to continue Ms. Bachelet's policies, renewed his commitment to environmental protection and human rights, and pledged to fight exclusion and discrimination.

Meanwhile, the CC presented a united front. Mr. Piñera (RN), a wealthy businessman, urged voters to support "a true renaissance" of the country and pledged to build prudent fiscal policies. He promised corporate tax breaks and job subsidies to attract more investment. Some of Mr. Piñera's advisors had worked under Mr. Pinochet's regime. His opponents argued that his rule would be as iron-fisted as that of the former dictator. Such criticisms reportedly had little impact among the youngest voters, who were born after the end of the dictatorship.

In the capital, Santiago, the centre-right coalition was challenged by Mr. Rodrigo García Pinochet, a grandson of the former leader who was running for a seat in the Chamber of Deputies as an independent. His campaign used photos of his grandfather in a bid to win support in a constituency comprising two of the richest municipalities in the capital.

A total of 86.66 per cent of 8.3 million registered voters cast their ballots for the elections to the Chamber of Deputies, while 84.63 per cent of 2.4 million registered voters for the partial Senate elections did so.

In the Chamber of Deputies, the CC won 58 seats, one more than the CPD. Clean Chile-Vote Happy and the Pactfree Independents took three and two seats respectively. In the Senate, the CC and the CPD took nine seats each out of the 18 seats at stake. However, the CPD remained the largest force in the Senate with 19 seats, the CC holding 16. Seventeen women were elected to the Chamber of Deputies and three to the Senate, which comprised a total of five women after the 2009 renewal.

Mr. Pinochet failed to win the seat he was contesting, receiving only 10 per cent of the votes, far less than the two CC candidates, who were elected with over 30 per cent of the vote each.

In the presidential elections, no candidate secured the requisite majority in the first round. A run-off election between Mr. Piñera, who won 44 per cent of the vote, and Mr. Frei, who took 29 per cent, took place on 17 January 2010. Mr. Piñera (RN) was elected with 52 per cent of the votes.

The newly-elected National Congress held its first session on 11 March 2010. The Chamber of Deputies elected Mrs. Alejandra Sepulveda of the Regionalist Party of Independents (PRI) as its new Speaker, while the Senate elected Mr. Jorge Pizarro (PDC) as its new President.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	8,285,186	
Voters	7,179,762	86.66 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	640,192	
Valid votes	6,539,570	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Candidates	Votes	% votes	Seats
Coalition for Change (CC)	120	2,841,314	43.44	58
Coalition for Democracy (CPD)	120	2,901,503	44.36	57
Clean Chile-Vote Happy (Chile Limpio Vote Feliz)	92	353,325	5.40	3
Pactfree Independents (Fuera de Pacto)	18	144,663	2.21	2
Total				120

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	103		
Women	17		14.17 %
Total	120		

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Legal profession	33
Education profession	13
Physician, dentist	13
Agriculture/farming	10
Finance, management or business	10
Research/sciences	9
Architect, surveyor, engineer	9
Entrepreneur	3
Writer, literary, artist	2
Civil service and local authority administration	2
Clerical, secretarial, administration	2
Economist	2
Political party official	1
Journalism, broadcasting, media	1
Trade union official	1
Social worker	1
Others	8
Total	120

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	2
31 to 40 years	26
41 to 50 years	25
51 to 60 years	36
61 to 70 years	19
Over 70 years	2
Unknown	10
Total	120

CHILE

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congreso Nacional / National Congress
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Senado / Senate
Number of members	38 directly elected
Term of House	8 years; one half of the membership is renewed every 4 years
Date of elections	13 December 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for 18 seats in the Senate on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 13 multi-member constituencies corresponding to the country's regions
- 7 with 2 seats each
- 6 with 4 seats each

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Closed party-list majority system, with seats allocated binomially, as follows:

- if the majority party obtains more than two-thirds of the valid votes cast, it is entitled to the two seats of the constituency
- if it obtains less than two-thirds, it is entitled to one seat and the second seat goes to the second-placed party

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by a nominee selected by the same party.

Voting is compulsory, failure to do so leading to a possible fine.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Chilean citizenship (or foreigners residing in Chile for more than five years). Chileans living overseas are not entitled to vote.

Disqualifications: sentence of death, personal restraint or penal servitude, insanity, criminal conviction entailing a grave penalty (three years and one day or more)

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 35 years
- Chilean citizenship
- completion of secondary education or the equivalent
- 3 years' residence in the region concerned

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- office of Minister of State
- certain public or State-related posts
- government contractor

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- membership of political party or coalition of parties, although independent candidatures also possible;
- each party or coalition can nominate two candidates per constituency;
- independent candidates require support of electorate equalling at least 0.5% of the votes cast in their constituency at the previous elections

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2009 parliamentary and presidential elections were the first to be held since the death of Augusto Pinochet, the country's dictator between 1973 and 1990. The centre-left Coalition for Democracy (CPD) had led the country since 1990.

In the previous elections, which were held in December 2005, the CPD won 65 of the 120 seats in the Chamber of Deputies; it also won 11 of the 20 seats renewed in the Senate, making a total of 20 seats in the full 38-member Senate. The CPD comprised the Socialist Party (PS), the Christian Democrat Party of Chile (PDC), the Party for Democracy (PPD) and the Radical Social-Democratic Party (PRSD). Its main rival, the centre-right Alliance for Chile (APC), took 54 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and eight of the seats up for renewal, for a total of 17 seats in the Senate. The APC comprised the Independent Democratic Union (UDI) and the National Renovation Party (RN). In the presidential elections, CPD candidate Michelle Bachelet won over RN candidate Sebastián Piñera Echenique, becoming the first woman to assume the post in Chile.

In 2008, the country's economy was severely hit by the global economic

crisis but recovered in short order thanks to copper revenues. Ms. Bachelet's administration was dealt a blow in October 2008 when centre-right parties won more mayorships than the CPD in local elections.

Although Ms. Bachelet enjoyed high popularity - she had a 77 per cent approval rating shortly before the elections - she was constitutionally barred from running for a second consecutive term. The CPD backed former president Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle, whose father, Mr. Eduardo Frei Montalva (PDC), had also served as president in the 1960s. A newly created centre-right alliance, the Coalition for Change (CC), backed Mr. Piñera. The CC included the RN, the UDI, ChileFirst and the List B Independents. In addition, two other coalitions - Clean Chile-Vote Happy and the New Majority for Chile - and the Pactfree Independents were also vying for seats.

No centre-right candidate had won the presidency since 1958. However, in 2009, internal splits in the CPD reportedly gave a boost to the centre-right camp. In addition to the CPD's Eduardo Frei, two left-wing candidates were running for president. In May 2009, Mr. Marco Enríquez-Ominami Gumucio announced that he would run as an independent candidate representing the "progressive left". The CPD criticized Mr. Enríquez for splitting the vote on the left. Mr. Enríquez is a son of Mr. Miguel Enríquez Espinosa, the founder of the Revolutionary Left Movement (MIR) who was assassinated by Pinochet's Junta. Mr. Jorge Arrate MacNiven of the Communist Party (CP) led a far-left coalition, Together We Can Go Further, comprising over 50 parties and organizations, including the CP, the Humanist Party, the Christian Left among others.

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after the end of the dictatorship.

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Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	2,392,477	
Voters	2,024,823	84.63 %

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Votes	Seats 2009	Total seats
Coalition for Democracy (CPD)	809,696	9	19
Coalition for Change (CC)	843,009	9	16
Pactfree Independents (Fuera de Pacto)	4,422	0	2
Independents		0	1
Total		18	38

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Seats 2009		Total seats	
Men	15		33	
Women	3	16.67 %	5	13.16%
Total	18		38	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Legal profession	18
Finance, management or business	3
Research/sciences	3
Architect, surveyor, engineer	3
Physician, dentist	3
Education profession	2
Economist	2
Entrepreneur	1
Journalism, broadcasting, media	1
Others	2
Total	38

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

31 to 40 years	3
41 to 50 years	7
51 to 60 years	19
61 to 70 years	6
Over 70 years	3
Total	38

COMOROS

Assembly of the Union

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Assemblée de l'Union / Assembly of the Union
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	33 members - 24 directly elected - 9 indirectly elected, by the assemblies of the three islands of the Union (3 members each).
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	6, 20 & 30 December 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all directly elected seats in the Assembly of the Union.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 24 single-seat constituencies.
- The remaining nine members are indirectly elected by the assemblies of the three islands (three each).

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Majority vote in two rounds (for the 24 directly elected members). In the first round, candidates who obtain an absolute majority are declared elected. In the run-off elections, a simple majority suffices.

Vacancies of titular members shall be filled by their substitutes. There are no substitutes for the nine indirectly elected members.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Comoran nationality
- age: at least 18 years old by 1 January of the election year
- registration on the voters' list
- residence in the country for at least six months prior to the elections.
- Persons enjoying civil rights

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- Comoran nationality

- age: at least 18 years old
 - residence in Comoros for at least six months prior to the elections.
- Ineligibilities:
- Persons deprived of civil rights under the law
 - Persons definitively barred from registering on the voters' list due to criminal charges or prison sentences
 - Persons temporarily barred from registering unless a certain period passes after the end of the ban (twice more than the period they were barred from registering).
 - Auditors general who relinquished their post within the three years prior to elections
 - Persons exercising the following profession who relinquished the post within the six months prior to elections: judges, commanders of the armed forces, youth and sports supervisors, primary and secondary school and technical institute supervisors, director of the tax and customs office, labour inspectors, police officers, Comorians serving as civil servants of a foreign country.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- substitute members of the deputies
- President of the Republic
- members of the government
- members of other advisory organs stipulated in the Constitution
- Judges
- municipal councillors
- civil servants of a foreign State
- international civil servants
- employees of the national enterprises
- head of enterprises receiving subsidies from the State
- Chairman and members of the Board of Directors of State-owned companies

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Deposit of 500,000 Comoran francs (about 1,500 Euros), reimbursable to candidates who obtain at least 10 per cent of the votes.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The December 2009 elections were the first to be held after the 9 May 2009 constitutional referendum.

In the previous elections, held in April 2004, President Assoumani Azali's

Convention for the Renewal of the Comoros (CRC) lost to the opposition coalition, the Camp of the Autonomous Islands (CdiA). The former won six and the latter 12 of the 18 directly elected seats in the 33-member Assembly of the Union. Colonel Azali, who had seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999, had been elected as President in April 2002 in elections boycotted by the opposition parties. Since gaining independence from France in 1975, Comoros has witnessed over 20 coup attempts.

In May 2006, religious leader Ahmed Abdallah Sambi was elected President. He pledged to defend Islam and fight terrorism and organized crime.

On 11 February 2009, President Sambi called a constitutional referendum for 22 March. The referendum was subsequently postponed to 17 May owing to opposition protests. In the referendum, 93.8 per cent of voters approved the amendments extending the term of the Federal President from four to five years, downgrading the presidents of the three constituent islands to governor, and authorizing the Federal President to dissolve the Assembly of the Union, 24 members of which will henceforth be directly elected. President Sambi, whose term was due to end in May 2010, will remain in power until 2011.

The mandate of the outgoing members of the Assembly of the Union expired in April 2009. The President therefore governed by decree until the elections in December. Many outgoing members, including Speaker Saïd Dhoifir Bounou, retired prior to the elections, in which 144 candidates ran.

Candidates from a coalition of pro-presidential parties urged voters to support them in order to stabilize the country. They argued that the President would need the support of the new legislature to continue reforms for further development and that implementation would require experience in politics, which they had gained in the outgoing legislature. They pledged to fight social injustice. Some candidates also called for State control of dairy prices so as to help the poor.

Many opposition parties joined a coalition, the May 2010 Convergence, which advocated that the presidency rotate to the island of Mohéli in May 2010 as required by the Constitution prior to the 2009 amendments. The main forces in this coalition included the CRC and the National Alliance for the Comoros (ANC), an opposition party launched by Mr. Mahamoudou Ali Mohamed in September 2009. The CRC pledged to establish autonomous universities and an independent judiciary. The ANC pledged to create jobs

for young people, help farmers and fishermen and revive the country's economy. It also promised to give more power to women: 12 of its 43 candidates were women. The ANC criticized the President for not respecting democracy or the Constitution by attempting to extend the presidential term.

Lack of unity was reported among both pro-presidential and anti-presidential camps. Consequently, there were several candidates from each camp in most single-member constituencies. The Director General of the Customs Office, who was reportedly close to President Sambu, also backed several independent candidates. The opposition was said to be weakened by a funding shortfall.

The first round of voting was held on 6 December. Logistical problems caused several polling stations to open late, but no major incidents were reported. The election commission did not publish turnout figures at the national level. They varied from 40 to 78 per cent according to the constituencies. Three pro-presidential candidates were declared elected in the first round. Opposition parties claimed election fraud, citing irregularities in the electoral roll. The Election Commission dismissed the allegations for lack of proof.

Run-off elections were held on 20 December. The Constitutional Court invalidated the results for three constituencies, where elections were repeated on 30 December. An additional 16 pro-presidential candidates were declared elected. The pro-presidential camp thus increased its tally to 19. The opposition took four seats while the remaining seat went to an independent.

African Union observers declared that the atmosphere had been calm and praised the assistance provided to disabled voters. However, they noted delays in opening some polling stations and deplored the low turnout.

On 13 January 2010, the newly elected Assembly of the Union held its first session. The following day, it elected former interior minister, Mr. Bourhane Hamidou, as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics**► Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Round 1	Round 2	Grand total
Pro-presidential candidates	3	16	19
Opposition candidates	0	4	4
Independents	0	1	1
Total	3	21	24

► Distribution of seats according to sex

	Directly elected	Indirectly elected	Total	
Men	24	8	32	
Women	0	1	1	3.03%
Total	24	9	33	

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Supreme People's Assembly

Parliament name	Choe Go In Min Hoe Ui / Supreme People's
(generic / translated)	Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	687 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	8 March 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Supreme People's Assembly.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

687 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

The candidate who has received the absolute majority of all votes cast in a constituency is declared elected.

The election is valid only when more than 1/2 of the voters in a given constituency take part in it.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 17 years

- DPRK citizenship

Disqualifications: insanity, persons disfranchised by court decision

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 17 years

- DPRK citizenship

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by electors, political parties or social organisations (jointly

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or individually)

- each candidate must be nominated at a meeting of at least 100 electors; more than 1/2 of these must support his/her candidacy.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 7 January 2009, the State-run news agency announced that elections to the Supreme People's Assembly, which had been due by August 2008, would be held on 8 March. Although the authorities did not announce any official reasons, it is widely believed that the elections were delayed due to the deteriorating health of the 67-year-old leader of the country, Kim Jong-il.

Mr. Kim, who inherited power from his father, Kim Il-sung in 1994, is General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, and Chairman of the National Defence Commission. He had reportedly suffered a stroke in August 2008. The international media watched the elections closely to see if the the composition of the new Supreme People's Assembly would give any signs of a political shift, in particular who would be the next leader of the country, which had been under international pressure to abandon its nuclear and missile programmes.

As in the previous elections, only one candidate was listed on the ballot paper in each constituency. Officially, voters' meetings are held in all the constituencies across the country to nominate candidates. It is widely believed that most candidates were hand-picked by Mr. Kim, the Workers' Party of Korea and the military. Initially, it was reported that Mr. Kim Jong-un, Mr. Kim's third son, was among the candidates. However, Mr. Kim reportedly renounced appearing to openly favour his third son for fear of triggering an internal power struggle among those vying for the leader's post.

The authorities, in official publications, stated that they wanted to achieve a powerful North Korea by 2012, the 100th anniversary of the birth of the country's founding leader, Mr. Kim Il-sung. The Workers' Party of Korea, to this end, called on citizens to vote massively in the elections to "help enhance the role and function of the Government".

According the State-run news agency, 99.98 per cent of the registered voters turned out at the polls and 100 per cent of the participants voted for the proposed candidates.

The Workers' Party of Korea won 606 seats, followed by the Korean Social Democratic Party with 50 seats. The Chondoist Chongu Party, which

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comprises followers of the Chondogyo religion ('Heavenly Way'), took 22. The remainder went to independents and an association.

A total of 367 members were re-elected; 21 former members who had held seats in the legislature elected before 1998 were also re-elected. The re-elected members included Mr. Kim Jong-il and his close aides, such as Mr. Kim Yong-nam, the Head of State (the second highest office in the country); Mr. Jang Song-thaek, Head of the Workers' Party's administrative department; and Mr. Kang Sok-ju, the first deputy Foreign Minister and Mr. Kim's brother-in-law.

The percentage of first-time members was recorded at 43.5 per cent (299 members), down from 48.2 per cent in the 2003 elections. In contrast to 2003, when many military officials had reportedly been elected, the 2009 elections saw an increase in the number of technocrats and financial experts. 107 women were elected.

The newly elected Supreme People's Assembly held its first session on 9 April, and re-elected Mr. Choe Thae Bok as the Speaker. It re-elected Mr. Kim Jong-il as Chairman of the National Defence Commission.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Turnout	99.98 %
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▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats	Number of women
Workers' Party of Korea	606	85
Korean Social Democratic Party	50	12
Chondoist Chongu Party	22	9
General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon)	6	1
Independents	3	0
Total	687	107

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	580	
Women	107	15.57 %
Total	687	

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▶ Distribution of seats according to profession

	Seats
Soldiers	116
Workers	75
Farmers	69
Others	427
Total	687

▶ Distribution of seats according to age

Below 35 years	7
Between 36 and 55 years	333
Over 56 years	347
Total	687

DOMINICA

House of Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	House of Assembly / -
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	32 members - 21 directly elected; - 9 appointed by the Head of State; - 2 others: the Speaker and the Attorney General.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	18 December 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Early elections were held for all the 21 directly elected seats. General elections had previously been held in May 2005.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

21 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

First past the post system.

Vacancies of seats held by directly elected members (Representatives) are filled through by elections, held within 3 months. Those held by appointed members (Senators) are filled through appointment, also within 3 months. Voting is not compulsory

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- British Commonwealth citizenship
- fulfilment of residence or domicile requirements

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 21 years
- Dominican citizenship (Commonwealth citizenship for Senate candidates)
- residence in Dominica or previous 12 months' residence immediately before nomination

- sufficient ability to speak and read English
- ineligibility: allegiance to a foreign State, undischarged bankruptcy, insanity, death sentence or imprisonment exceeding 12 months

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- ministers of religion
- certain government contractors

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Deposit equivalent to US\$ 184, which is reimbursed if the candidate obtains at least 1/8 of the valid votes cast in the constituency

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 19 November 2009, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit announced that early elections would be held on 18 December. They were constitutionally due by May 2010.

In the previous elections, which were held in May 2005, the Prime Minister's Dominica Labour Party (DLP) won 12 of the 21 directly elected seats. Its coalition partner, the Dominica Freedom Party (DFP), failed to win parliamentary representation for the first time since its inception in 1975. The main opposition, the United Workers Party (UWP), took eight seats. An independent candidate was also elected.

A record 62 candidates - 57 from five parties and five independent candidates - were vying for seats in 2009. Although the DFP was running, the elections were widely seen as a two-horse race between the DLP and the UWP. The DLP was the only party fielding candidates in all 21 constituencies. The UWP and the DFP fielded 17 and 11 candidates respectively.

The DLP pledged to improve the climate for foreign investment and to develop the agricultural, tourism and technology sectors so as to modernize the local economy. It further promised to renovate the country's main roads and transform the capital into "the most modern and historic city" in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). The DLP promised to pursue its efforts to establish a Caribbean Community Single Market and Economy (CSME) and to consolidate existing relations with the European Union, Canada and the United States.

Prime Minister Skerrit criticized the UWP for having "no plan for the country". In response, UWP leader Ronald Green launched a manifesto entitled "United

for Dominica" on 15 December. It comprised 20 pledges for "smart growth" to be achieved within 24 months. It focused on restoring economic growth by boosting export earnings and rebuilding domestic demand. The UWP also promised to develop a "green economy" by investing in renewable energy. Many UWP candidates promised to create jobs and reduce the cost of fuel for fishermen. The UWP argued that Prime Minister Skerrit's dual French-Dominican citizenship violated the Constitution. It also criticized the government for not reviewing the electoral roll, which comprised 67,000 registered voters for 72,000 inhabitants.

In the meantime, on 13 December, the DFP, led by Ms. Judith Pestaina, launched its manifesto. It pledged to pass a freedom of information bill that would allow citizens to find out how their taxes were spent. It also promised to introduce a national health insurance plan and proposed an EC\$200 million (US\$74 million) plan for agricultural diversification.

54.87 per cent of the 67,000 registered voters turned out at the polls. Observers from the Organization of American States (OAS) said that the elections had been free and fair. The CARICOM observers declared that the voting had been conducted in an orderly, free and peaceful manner.

The final results gave 18 seats to the DLP. The UWP took the three remaining seats. UWP leader Green lost to a DLP candidate by a margin of two votes. The DFP failed to win parliamentary representation for the second time in a row. Two women were elected.

On 4 February 2010, the newly elected House of Assembly held its first session, which was boycotted by members of the UWP. Five appointed members (all of them are men) were sworn in on the same day. Ms. Alix Boyd Knights was re-elected as Speaker.

In the meantime, on 5 January, Prime Minister Skerrit's new cabinet was sworn in.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	67,223	
Voters	36,883	54.87 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	589	
Valid votes	36,294	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats	Gain/Loss
Dominica Labor Party (DLP)	18	6
United Workers' Party (UWP)	3	-5
Total	21	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	19	
Women	2	9.52 %
Total	21	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years		2
31 to 40 years		6
41 to 50 years		7
51 to 60 years		8
61 to 70 years		2
Total		25

Note:

As at 24 February 2010, seven opposition members - three directly elected and four appointed - had not taken up their seats.

ECUADOR

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Asamblea Nacional / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	124 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	26 April 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the newly-established National Assembly.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 103 single-member constituencies
- one nation-wide constituency (for 15 seats)
- 3 multi-member constituencies (two seats each) for members representing Ecuadorians abroad

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

First-past-the-post system for 103 members.

Proportional representation system for 15 members.

In addition, six members representing Ecuadorians living abroad are elected under the majority system using multi-member constituencies.

Voting is compulsory for Ecuadorians between 18 and 65 years old.

Those who fail to vote may be stripped of their civil rights. Voting is optional for illiterates and those who are between 16 and 18 years old or over 65.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Ecuadorian citizenship or, for foreign nationals, legal residence in Ecuador for at least five years

- Age: 16 or over

Disqualifications: insanity, conviction for fraud in the public sector or in connection with elections.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 30 years

- Ecuadorian citizenship by birth
- full possession of civil rights

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- membership of armed or police forces on active duty
- government contractor
- membership of clergy
- legal representative of a foreign company

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- legally recognised political parties may nominate their candidates
- independent candidates can also submit their candidature (support of 1.5% of the electorate of the constituency concerned is required)

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The April 2009 elections were the first to be held under the new Constitution adopted by referendum in September 2008. At stake were the 124 seats in the National Assembly established by the new Constitution. Presidential elections were held at the same time.

In the previous elections to the then 100-member National Congress, held in October 2006, the Institutional Renewal Party of National Action (PRIAN) came in first with 27 seats. Mr. Alvaro Noboa (PRIAN) lost to Mr. Rafael Correa who was supported by the Country Alliance (Alianza País, AP) in the run-off presidential elections. In the light of his commitment to rewrite the Constitution and to restructure the National Congress, Mr. Correa did not endorse any party in the 2006 parliamentary elections. Other parties winning seats in the National Congress included the Party of the Patriotic Society (PSP, 23 seats), the Social Christian Party (PSC, 12 seats) and the Democratic Left-RED Alliance (ID-RED, 10 seats).

Mr. Correa, known as an ally of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, was sworn in as President on 15 January 2007. A political crisis broke out the following month when the President announced his intention to hold a referendum on the establishment of a Constituent Assembly that would rewrite the Constitution. Fifty-seven parliamentarians who opposed the move were dismissed by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal in March. At the referendum which took place in April 2007, 81.72 per cent of voters approved the establishment of the Constituent Assembly.

Elections to the 130-member Constituent Assembly took place on 30

September 2007. President Correa's allies, including his own MPAIS (Movimiento Patria Altiva y Soberana) party, which had been a part of the AP in the 2006 elections, won 80 seats. The Constituent Assembly held its first session on 29 November and voted to "assume the legislative powers and duties" of the National Congress until such time as a new constitution was adopted. It declared that the National Congress would be in recess without pay until then. The National Congress rejected the move, which it claimed the Constituent Assembly was not empowered to make.

The Constituent Assembly finalized the draft constitution in July 2008. In September, the Constitution was approved by 64 per cent of voters in a referendum.

Once the new Constitution entered into force on 20 October, the National Congress ceased to function. A 76-member Legislative and Oversight Commission made up of members of the Constituent Assembly was tasked in the interim with performing the main functions of the legislative branch until the National Assembly was established.

The new Constitution stipulated that early parliamentary and presidential elections be held. Twice delayed, the elections took place on 26 April 2009.

The election campaign started on 10 March. Eighteen parties were vying for seats. Major contenders included President Correa's MPAIS, the PSP of former president Lucio Gutierrez (who was ousted by street protests in 2005) and Mr. Noboa's PRIAN. All three party leaders were also presidential candidates, but despite their rivalry, it was widely expected that the three parties would form a coalition government after the elections. Other parties - the PSC, the ID, the Roldosista Party of Ecuador (PRE) - did not endorse a presidential candidate.

Before the 2009 elections, the country's economy was reported to be slowing down amid the global financial crisis and lower prices for oil, Ecuador's main export. Remittances from Ecuadorians abroad were falling, a trend strongly felt among the 38 per cent of the country's 14 million inhabitants reported to be living below the poverty line. The country's foreign debt reached US\$ 10 billion, representing 19.7 per cent of gross domestic product. In December 2008, President Correa declared a moratorium on one third of the debt, on the grounds that Ecuador was a victim of "developed world mistakes" that had brought about the financial crisis.

President Correa pledged to deal with the financial crisis by standing up to foreign investors and to provide more housing, roads and jobs through the social programme funded by OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries).

The PSP of Mr. Gutierrez, who had mounted a coup in 2000, campaigned on a platform of lower taxes and small government. Mr. Gutierrez led a door-to-door campaign mainly in the Amazon region where he grew up. Although initially the PSP was expected to win around 10 per cent of the votes, it steadily gained ground in both parliamentary and presidential polls, winning support from indigenous communities in the Amazon and the Andes. President Correa's party was said to be struggling in these regions, its policy to promote mining on indigenous lands counting against it.

PRIAN leader Noboa, reportedly the country's richest man, had been opposition leader in the Constituent Assembly but was expelled in January 2008 for not disclosing his personal wealth. He criticized Mr. Correa's administration for not doing enough for the poor, arguing that despite oil revenues of US\$ 25 billion, only one million houses had been built, principally for Mr. Correa's supporters. The PRIAN promised to create more jobs by developing tourism, agriculture and industry.

In the 2009 elections the electoral rolls increased by some 1.4 million new voters as a result of citizens over 16 years old (instead of 18), police officers, soldiers, detainees, and foreigners legally residing in Ecuador for over five years being allowed to vote. Over 75 per cent of nearly 10.6 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

President Correa's MPAIS came in first with 59 seats but failed to secure a majority. The PSP and the PSC took 19 and 11 seats respectively. The PRIAN took seven. The remainder went to small parties. 40 women were elected.

President Correa was re-elected with 51.99 per cent of the votes, becoming the first presidential candidate to be elected without a run-off in the 30 years since Ecuador returned to constitutional rule. PSP leader Gutierrez, who came in second with 28.24 per cent of the votes, insisted that election fraud had taken place.

The newly elected National Assembly held its first session on 31 July and elected Mr. Fernando Cordero (MPAIS) as its Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	10,529,765
Turnout	Over 75%

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Movement for a Proud and Sovereign Fatherland (MPAIS)	59
Patriotic Society Party (PSP)	19
Social Christian Party (PSC)	11
Institutional Renewal Party of National Action (PRIAN)	7
Municipalist Movement for National Integrity (MMIN)	5
People's Democratic Movement (MPD)	5
Pachakutik Plurinational Unity Movement - New Country (MUPP-NP)	4
Ecuadorian Roldosist Party (PRE)	3
Democratic Left (ID)	2
Amauta Yuyai Independent Political Movement (MIAY)	1
Autonomous Regional Movement (MAR)	1
Carchi Social Conservative Movement (MSC)	1
Civic Awareness (CC)	1
Deeds are Love Independent Movement (MIOSA)	1
Equality Movement (MI) - Socialist Party-Broad Front (PS-FA) - Democratic Left (ID) - Movement of Azuay 70 Professionals (MOPA)	1
National Democratic Coalition Movement (MCND)	1
Regional Action for Equity - Latin American People's Alliance (ARE - APLA)	1
United for Pastaza Independent Movement (MIUP)	1
Total	124

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	84	
Women	40	32.26 %
Total	124	

EL SALVADOR

Legislative Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Asamblea legislativa / Legislative Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	84 directly elected
Term of House	3 years
Date of elections	18 January 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Legislative Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 14 multi-member constituencies (3 to 16 seats) corresponding to the country's departments
- 1 national multi-member (20 seats) constituency

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Closed party-list voting according to a system of proportional representation (simple quotient and the greatest remainder).

The 14 departments of the country constitute as many constituencies returning 64 members, each according to its population. The other 20 Assembly members are elected at the level of the national constituency.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular Deputies.

Voting is compulsory (no sanctions).

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Salvadoran citizenship
- possession of civil and political rights

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 25 years
- Salvadoran citizenship by birth

Ineligibilities: loss of rights of citizenship during the five years preceding the elections, handling or administration of public funds (until their accounts have been audited), government contractors, certain relatives of the President of the Republic, delinquent debtors to the public or municipal treasuries, members of the armed forces and the clergy

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the Republic
- minister of Government
- under-Secretary of State
- magistrate of the Supreme Court of Justice
- official of an electoral agency

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- submission by political parties

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 1 September 2008, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) officially set the date for parliamentary elections for 18 January 2009.

In the previous parliamentary elections held in March 2006, the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) came in first, winning 34 seats. ARENA's traditional coalition partner, the National Conciliation Party (PCN), lost six seats, winning a total of ten. The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) obtained 32 seats. The Christian Democratic Party (PDC) took six, while the Democratic Change (CD) party won two seats. The Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), formed by FMLN dissidents in 2005, failed to win parliamentary representation.

In October 2005, President Antonio Saca (ARENA) launched the Family Solidarity Network programme, which provides a monthly allowance of the equivalent of between US\$ 15 and 20 per child to each family living in extreme poverty. However, the recent rise in food prices further affected the poor, who make up 42 per cent of the country's 6.5 million inhabitants.

The 2009 parliamentary elections were held two months ahead of presidential elections, which take place every five years. The FMLN criticized the TSE for starting the electoral process without taking into account the outcome of the 2007 census. The FMLN insisted that more seats should be allocated to the urban areas of San Salvador, where it reportedly has strong

support. 178 candidates including 36 women were vying for seats in the Legislative Assembly. Once again, there was a duel between the FMLN and ARENA, which had ruled the country since 1989. Both parties' leaders were also presidential candidates.

Mr. Mauricio Funes, once a popular journalist, led the FMLN, a former armed group that joined the political process in the early 1990s. He stressed that the FMLN was no longer a radical Marxist organization. Mr. Funes vowed to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba, which had been severed following the Cuban Revolution in 1959. The FMLN leader promised to address the situation of undocumented Salvadorians in the United States, and to re-establish the Institute for Regulating Supplies (IRA, which used to provide staples at a low cost). Mr. Funes initially called for a coalition with ARENA, the CD and the FDR, an idea which was vehemently rejected by outgoing President Saca (ARENA).

Mr. Rodrigo Ávila, a former National Police chief, led ARENA to the 2009 elections. He called for voters' continuous support for the party in order to defend freedom and protect the people's dignity. He pledged to work closely with the United States and seek more temporary work permits for Salvadorians in the United States and Canada. ARENA also said it would no longer pursue radical neo-liberal economic policies.

The PCN was led by Mr. Tomás Chévez, a pastor in the influential ELIM Christian church. The PCN promised to re-establish a "genuinely constitutional State" through "proper law enforcement".

Pre-election polls put the FMLN in the lead. The local media reported that many people wanted change after two decades of ARENA rule, which had failed to deal with poverty and crime.

53.58 per cent of the 4.2 million registered voters turned out at the polls. Voting took place without incident, except for the delayed opening of some polling stations.

The Organization of American States observer mission said that no major problems had been reported. The European Union, which deployed an Election Observation Mission (EOM) for the first time to El Salvador, said that the elections had taken place in a peaceful and orderly manner. It nevertheless noted that the TSE failed to sanction some important violations of the Election Code, especially regarding the extremely long

pre-campaign.

The final results gave the FMLN 35 seats, three more than ARENA. The PCN took eleven, followed by the PDC and the CD, which respectively won five and one seat.

The newly elected Legislative Assembly held its first session on 1 May. The following day, it elected Mr. Ciro Cruz Zepeda (PCN) as its new Speaker with the support of ARENA, the PCN and the PDC. Members of the FMLN, which had proposed a rotation of the presidency, and the CD abstained from voting.

In the presidential elections held on 15 March, Mr. Funes (FMLN) was elected as the new President. He was sworn in on 1 June.

Election results and statistics

► Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	4,226,479	
Voters	2,264,567	53.58 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	48,978	
Valid votes	2,215,589	

► Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats	Gain/ Loss	Number of women
Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN)	35	3	11
National Republican Alliance (ARENA)	32	-2	4
National Conciliation Party (PCN)	11	1	0
Christian Democratic Party (PDC)	5	-1	1
Democratic Change (CD)	1	-1	0
Total	84		16

► Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	68	
Women	16	19.05 %
Total	84	

GERMANY

German Bundestag

Parliament name (generic / translated)	- / -
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Deutscher Bundestag / German Bundestag
Number of members	622 members - 598 directly elected - 24 overhang seats
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	27 September 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the German Bundestag on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 299 constituencies
- 16 multi-member constituencies corresponding to the Länder (component states of the federation)

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

299 members are elected under the majority (first-past-the post) system and the remaining seats are filled through the proportional representation system using the party list.

- Each voter has 2 votes: 1 ("first vote") for an individual candidate in one of the constituencies (majority system), and 1 ("second vote") for the party list in the Länder.

- Under the majority system, the candidate having received the highest number of first votes in each constituency is declared elected.

Seats under the proportional representation system are distributed according to the Sainte-Laguë/Schepers method. Parties which won at least 5 per cent of the second votes cast nationwide or those which won at least three seats under the majority system are entitled to win seats under the proportional representation system.

- If a party wins more seats in the majority system (the first vote) than it is entitled to by the results of the proportional representation system (second vote), it can keep the additional seats, called "overhang seats"

(Überhangmandate).

- Vacant seats attributed to a political party are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate of the same party (even seats vacated by members elected through the proportional system). Vacant overhang seats are not filled. Vacant seats held by independents are filled through a special election in that constituency.
- Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- All Germans as defined in Article 116 (1) of the Basic Constitutional Law;
- At least 18 years on election day;
- Persons who have had their domicile or who have resided permanently in the Federal Republic of Germany for at least three months (including Germans abroad).

Disqualifications:

- Persons disqualified by a judicial decision;
- Persons under guardianship;
- Persons accommodated in a psychiatric hospital under a court order. (cf. Section 13 of the Federal Elections Act)

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors;
- All Germans as defined in Article 116 (1) of the Basic Constitutional Law;
- At least 18 years on election day.

Ineligibilities:

- Persons disqualified from voting;
- Persons who have been deprived of eligibility to hold public or political office by judicial decision.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- The Federal President;
- Members of the office of the Federal President;
- Ministers of the Federal State;
- Members of the Federal Audit Office;
- Judges;
- Members of the Bundesrat;
- Civil servants.

(cf. Article 137, 66 Basic Law)

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidatures for constituencies or for Länder party lists
- candidatures for constituencies may be presented by a political party or by individuals
- candidatures for constituencies must be submitted by political parties if the party does not have at least five seats in the Bundestag or in the legislature of a given Land (a party which has not been continuously represented in the Bundestag or in the legislature of a given Land by at least five members may only submit a nomination as a party if it has announced its intention to participate in the election to the Federal Returning Officer at least 75 days prior to the election)
- in cases where candidatures for constituencies are presented by individuals, these must be supported by at least 200 voters of the same constituency
- candidatures for Länder party lists can be presented by any political party. If the party does not have at least five seats in the Bundestag or in a given Land legislature, the support of at least one per 1,000 eligible voters of the Land concerned is required. In each Land, each party may present only one list.
- There are no monetary deposits for candidates or for political parties.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2009 parliamentary elections were held against the backdrop of the global economic crisis, which severely affected the country's automobile industry. In September 2008, the government announced a rescue package involving 4.5 billion euros in loans and credit guarantees.

In the previous elections to the German Bundestag, which were held in September 2005, Ms. Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) took 180 seats. The CDU's sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU, standing only in Bavaria) won 46 seats. The CDU/CSU coalition thus took 226 seats in all, slightly more than then Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's Social Democratic Party (SPD), which won 222 seats. In November, after seven weeks of negotiation, the CDU/CSU and the SPD agreed to form a grand coalition, the second in German history. Ms. Merkel was subsequently elected as Chancellor, becoming the first woman in Germany to assume the post.

The CDU and the SPD disagreed on many issues. In the 2009 elections, Chancellor Merkel's CDU sought to win more seats so as to form a new coalition government with the Free Democratic Party (FDP). The FDP, led by

Mr. Guido Westerwelle, is known for its pro-business policies based on the free market economy. It had been a member of the CDU-led coalition government between 1982 and 1998.

In July 2009, the CSU, led by Mr. Horst Seehofer, opposed the country's ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, aimed at improving the European Union (EU) decision-making process. It argued that the German Parliament had to approve EU decisions for them to be binding on Germany. After Parliament's approval was obtained on 23 September, President Horst Koehler signed a law to ratify the Lisbon Treaty.

Despite the row, however, the CDU announced that it intended to maintain its partnership with the CSU after the 2009 elections. The CDU/CSU was challenged by Mr. Franz Müntefering's SPD, whose candidate for Chancellor was Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

The major parties focused on the economy and nuclear energy in the 2009 election campaign.

Chancellor Merkel argued that a CDU/CSU-FDP coalition was the only way to guarantee economic stability in Germany. The CDU pledged to revive the country's economy by creating more jobs and combating unemployment. It also promised tax cuts and greater investment in education. The FDP promised to reduce the State's involvement in economic policy and opposed the introduction of a minimum wage proposed by the SPD. The latter vowed to introduce a minimum wage of 7.50 euros per hour and to create four million jobs within the next 10 years. The Green Party opposed the CDU's tax-cut plan and promised to introduce a minimum fixed pension for anyone who had worked for at least 33 years. It called on voters to prevent the formation of a CDU-FDP coalition, which, in its view, would allocate less money for education and measures to fight global warming.

In terms of nuclear energy policy, the SPD vowed to stick to plans to decommission all German nuclear power stations by 2020, while the CDU and the FDP pledged to delay the process and reduce energy prices for consumers.

In June 2007, the Party of Democratic Socialism (the successor to the communist party that had ruled East Germany) and the WASG (a group of trade unionists and former SPD members based in western Germany) had formed the Left Party under the leadership of Mr. Oskar Lafontaine, a former

SPD leader. SPD leader Steinmeier ruled out forming a government with the Left Party after the 2009 elections and criticized its call for the immediate withdrawal of German troops from the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

An initial opinion poll showed the CDU and the SPD running neck and neck. The local media reported that overhang seats (see note) would determine the outcome of the election since the major parties were expected to win most of the 299 seats elected from the constituencies (first votes) but would not win the same share of seats allocated to parties (second votes).

In all, 70.78 per cent of the 62 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The 2009 elections resulted in the creation of a record 24 overhang seats, up from 16 in the 2005 elections, bringing the total number of seats in the new legislature to 622. The final results gave 194 seats to the CDU, 14 more than it had in the 2005 elections. The CSU took 45 seats. The CDU/CSU's future coalition partner, the FDP, won 93, up from 61, giving Ms. Merkel's camp a total of 332 seats. In its worst showing since the end of World War II, the SPD lost 76 seats, dropping to 146. Its rival, the Left Party, won 76 seats, 22 more than in the outgoing legislature. The Green Party took 68, 17 more than in 2005.

On 27 October, the newly elected German Bundestag held its first session and re-elected Mr. Norbert Lammert (CDU) as its Speaker. The following day, it re-elected Ms. Merkel as Chancellor. Her second government comprised the CDU/CSU and the FDP.

Note on overhang seats (Überhangmandate):

In the German electoral system, each voter has two votes: a first vote for an individual candidate in one of the constituencies, and a second vote for the party list drawn up for each of the Länder by each political party. In each Land, every party is entitled to the number of seats that corresponds to its share in the second votes. If a party wins more seats in the constituencies on the first vote than it is entitled to by the results of the second vote calculation, it can keep the additional seats, called "overhang seats" (Überhangmandate). In March 2008, the German Bundestag revised the electoral law so as to correct a possible paradox whereby an increase in the seats apportioned leads to a decrease in the number of seats a party holds. As of the 2009 elections, seats are distributed according to the Sainte-Lagué/Schepers method instead of the Hare/Niemeyer method (largest remainder method).

Under the current electoral system, many overhang seats are created if the winning party in the second vote has a relatively low share of the votes but a huge lead over the party that comes second. In the past, there were fewer overhang seats since two major parties - the CDU/CSU and the SPD - dominated the party vote, winning close to 50 per cent each. In recent years, they have still won most seats in the constituencies (first vote) but not the party votes (second vote), since there are more parliamentary parties. The discrepancies between their shares of the first and second votes have resulted in more overhang seats.

In July 2008, the Constitutional Court ruled that the "paradoxical effect (negative vote weight)" in connection with the overhang seats was unconstitutional and ordered the German Bundestag to revise the electoral law by 2011. The paradox arises when the difference between the share of the first and second votes reduces. In such case, an increase in the total number of seats apportioned under the second vote leads to a decrease in the number of seats a party holds. In recent years, major parties reportedly tried to win more overhang seats. In the 2005 elections, the CDU reportedly urged voters in one district to leave the second ballot blank to avoid the paradoxical effect. The 2008 court ruling was a result of two citizens' initiative.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	62,168,489	
Voters	44,005,575	70.78 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	757,575	
Valid votes	43,248,000	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats	Gain/Loss
Christian Democratic Union (CDU)	194	14
Social Democratic Party (SPD)	146	-76
Free Democratic Party (FDP)	93	32
Left Party (Linkspartei)	76	22
Green Party	68	17
Christian Social Union of Bavaria (CSU)	45	-1
Total	622	

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	418	
Women	204	32.80 %
Total	622	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Legal profession	115
Architect, surveyor, engineer	86
Civil service and local authority administration	82
Education profession	45
Research/sciences	39
Political party official	36
Theologians	24
Writer, literary, artist	18
Journalism, broadcasting, media	17
Agriculture/farming	12
Physician, dentist	11
Finance, management or business	11
Entrepreneur	10
Economist	10
Armed services/Police	10
Nursing	9
Clerical, secretarial, administration	6
Others	81
Total	622

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	9
31 to 40 years	99
41 to 50 years	170
51 to 60 years	210
61 to 70 years	124
Over 70 years	10
Total	622

GREECE

Hellenic Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Vouli Ton Ellinon / Hellenic Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	300 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	4 October 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament following the early dissolution of this body on 7 September 2009. General elections had previously been held in September 2007.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

- 56 single- or multi-member constituencies for 288 seats
- one multi-member nationwide constituency for 12 "State Deputies"

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

- single round of voting in accordance with the Hagenbach-Bischoff system of "reinforced" proportional representation, with voting for party lists and, within each list, preferential vote. Remaining seats after this distribution are allocated in 13 principal electoral districts according to the same system. Any further remaining seats are allocated at the national level by means of a simple electoral quotient

- majority vote, under some circumstances, to allocate further remaining seats at the national level and first past the post system in eight single-member constituencies

Parties obtaining at least 3 per cent of the votes cast receive a minimum of six seats in parliament.

The 12 "State Deputies" are nominated by the most successful parties and elected according to a party-list proportional representation system, the whole country then being regarded as one constituency.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate on the same party list.

Voting is compulsory until the age of 70. Failure to vote is punishable by a prison sentence of one month to one year, and a loss of the offender's post (however, no one has ever been prosecuted).

▶ **Voter requirements**

- 18 years
- Greek citizenship
- full possession of civil rights

Disqualifications: persons disfranchised pursuant to legal prohibition or criminal conviction for offenses defined in the common or military penal code, or persons who are wards of the court.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 25 years or over
- Greek citizenship

▶ **Incompatibilities**

The main categories are:

- members of the armed forces and security service
- certain public officials or holders of public office
- directors of parastatal agencies or organizations (cf. the articles 56 and 57 of the Constitution).

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- individual candidates or members of a political party
- presentation on an independent basis or under a party label, supported by at least 12 voters, or self-nominated.
- non-reimbursable deposit of 146.74 euros.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 3 September 2009, Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis asked President Karolos Papoulias to dissolve Parliament with a view to holding early elections, arguing that he needed a new mandate to help steer the country out of the prevailing economic crisis. On 7 September, President Papoulias dissolved Parliament and called elections for 4 October, nearly two years before they were constitutionally due.

In the previous elections held in September 2007, Prime Minister Karamanlis' New Democracy Party (ND) took 152 of the 300 seats. The Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) took 102 seats. The Communist Party (KKE), Coalition of the Radical Left (Sy.Riz.A) and the People's Orthodox Alarm (La.O.S) took 22, 14 and 10 seats respectively. Mr. Karamanlis, who had been Prime Minister since March 2004, subsequently formed a new government.

The 2009 elections were held against the backdrop of the global economic crisis. The unemployment rate reached 8.5 per cent in May 2009. The government provided 28 billion euros in bailout packages to banks and privatized several public-sector companies in a bid to boost investment and create jobs. The country's public debt was expected to exceed 100 per cent of GDP in 2009. The budget deficit was expected to rise to 6.2 per cent of GDP in 2009 and 7.3 per cent in 2010. The European Union (EU) had set 2010 as the deadline for Greece to reduce its budget deficit.

The ND was reportedly troubled by financial scandals involving some of its members. Two ministers resigned in connection with an exchange of land between the State and the Orthodox monastery on Mount Athos in which the State reportedly lost 100 million euros. Prime Minister Karamanlis was criticized for his handling of the fires that came close to Athens in August 2009.

The 2009 elections once again saw a duel between the ND and the PASOK. The latter was again led by Mr. George Papandreou, whose father (Andreas) and grand-father (George) had also served as prime ministers. The Papandreou and Karamanlis families have been major players in the country's politics since democracy was established in Greece in 1955. Outgoing Prime Minister Karamanlis is the nephew of Mr. Konstantin Karamanlis, a former president who served between 1980 and 1995.

Both the ND and the PASOK underscored the need to tackle the economic crisis, albeit with different approaches.

Prime Minister Karamanlis promised to reduce State spending by 30 per cent over the next two years. He pledged to freeze salaries, pensions and public-sector hiring in 2010 and accelerate privatizations.

The PASOK, meanwhile, pledged to boost the economy by spending at least 5 per cent of GDP on public investment each year and increasing public sector salaries, unemployment benefits and retirement pensions. It pledged to renegotiate past privatizations and discontinue ongoing privatization plans. The PASOK also promised to reduce taxes for persons earning less than 30,000 euros per year while re-establishing wealth and inheritance taxes. Mr. Papandreou said that he would negotiate with the EU to extend the deadline for reducing the budget deficit by three years.

The two parties also differed on immigration policy. The ND pledged to

introduce longer detention periods for illegal immigrants. The PASOK promised to grant citizenship to all immigrant children born in Greece and local voting rights to immigrants who had lived in the country legally for more than five years.

Although voting is compulsory, only 70.92 per cent of the 9.9 million registered voters turned out at the polls, down from 74.14 per cent in 2007.

The final results gave a resounding victory to the PASOK, which took 160 seats. The ND followed with 91 seats, losing 61. The KKE, the La.OS and the Sy.Riz.A took 21, 15 and 13 seats respectively. Mr. Karamanlis announced that he would step down as leader of the ND.

On 14 October, the newly elected Parliament held its first session. The following day, it elected Mr. Philippos Petsalnikos (PASOK) as its new Speaker.

In the meantime, on 5 October, President Papoulias invited Mr. Papandreou (PASOK) to form a new government. Mr. Papandreou's government was sworn in on 7 October.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	9,933,385	
Voters	7,044,479	70.92 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	186,137	
Valid votes	6,858,342	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK)	160
New Democracy (ND)	91
Communist Party (KKE)	21
La.O.S	15
Coalition of the Radical Left (Sy.Riz.A)	13
Total	300

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	248	
Women	52	17.33 %
Total	300	

HAITI**Senate**

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Assemblée nationale / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Sénat / Senate
Number of members	30 directly elected
Term of House	6 years; one-third of the membership is renewed every 2 years
Date of elections	19 April & 21 June 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for 12 of the Senate seats.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

10 multi-member constituencies (each with three seats) corresponding to the country's departments.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Each elector votes for three Senators in the constituency. For partial renewal of the Senate (one-third every two years), each elector votes for one Senator in the constituency.

A run-off election is held if no candidate obtains an absolute majority in the first round. An absolute majority is no longer required in the run-off.

There are no reserved seats for women, ethnic minority, or other categories.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections, unless these vacancies occur during or following the last ordinary session of the legislature.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 at the time of registration
- Haitian citizenship
- full political and civil rights
- citizens overseas cannot vote

Disqualifications: imprisonment, insanity/mental illness, conviction of a criminal offence, persons under guardianship/wards, holders of

temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 30 at the time of registration
- Haitian citizenship by birth
- full possession of civil and political rights
- residence in the constituency concerned for at least two consecutive years
- ownership of real property or employment/trade in the constituency
- ineligibility: imprisonment, insanity/mental illness, conviction of a criminal offence, persons under guardianship/wards, holders of temporary entry permits, undocumented immigrants, executives and members of the Electoral Commission

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- managers of public funds, who may stand for election but are relieved of their duties if elected
- government contractors
- representatives or agents of individuals, companies or corporations that are government contractors
- delegates, deputy-delegates, judges and ministry officials who did not resign at least six months before the elections
- members of the executive branch and directors general of public administration bodies who did not resign at least one year before the elections

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- monetary deposit of 5,000 gourdes (US\$ 125)
- one half of the deposit is reimbursed for political parties winning at least 2 per cent of the valid votes nationwide

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 7 January 2009, President René Prével issued a decree setting the date for partial elections to the Senate for 19 April. The renewal of ten Senate seats elected in February 2006 for a two-year term was constitutionally due by April 2008, but had been delayed for various reasons. By-elections to two other vacant seats were jointly held with the 2009 elections.

In the previous elections held in February and April 2006 in parallel with the presidential elections, the Front for Hope (Lespwa), took 11 of the 30 seats in

the Senate. Lespwa leader, Mr. René Prével, won the presidential elections. The party had been created by former members of the Lavalas Family Party, which itself had been established by former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in February 2004. In the 2006 elections, the Lavalas Family Party took three seats, while the Haitian Social-Democratic Fusion Party won five and the People's Struggle Party (OPL) four seats. The remainder went to small parties.

Upon assuming office as President in May 2006, Mr. Prével nominated Mr. Jacques Édouard Alexis as Prime Minister. His nomination was unanimously approved by both chambers. However, many Lespwa members and President Prével's allies subsequently formed the Coalition of Parliamentarians for Progress (CPP), as they gradually became disenchanted with the government's economic policies.

In February 2008, Prime Minister Alexis survived the first move to oust him by the CPP. Two months later, violent street protests over food prices broke out, killing five people. CPP members in the Senate criticized the government's handling of the crisis as being "too little too late" and demanded that the Prime Minister resign within two days. On 12 April, the Senate voted to dismiss the Prime Minister. Two candidates for the premiership - Mr. Éricq Pierre and Mr. Robert Manuel - were rejected by the CPP in the Chamber of Deputies. Due to the political stalemate, the Senate elections could not take place.

The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate endorsed Ms. Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis as Prime Minister on 29 August and 8 September respectively. In the same months, the country of 9.8 million inhabitants was hit by a series of hurricanes that killed nearly 800 people and caused damage amounting to 15 per cent of the gross national product (GNP). The post-hurricane confusion further delayed the Senate elections.

In the meantime, Canada, the European Union and the United States agreed to pay for a large part of the election-related costs: US\$ 12.5 of the total US\$ 16 million. The elections were subsequently called for April 2009.

The 2009 elections were marked by controversy over the rejection of candidates from the Lavalas Family Party. On 6 February 2009, the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), Haiti's election commission, barred all 17 candidates of the Lavalas Family Party from the Senate race for failing to submit an accompanying letter signed by the party leader, Mr. Aristide (who now lives in South Africa). On 2 March, many supporters of the Lavalas Family Party

participated in a demonstration calling for Mr. Aristide's return and the participation of the party in the Senate elections. Despite a local court order and pressure from the United Nations and President Préval, the CEP refused to overturn its decision.

In the end, 78 candidates from 32 parties were allowed to take part in the Senate race. They include the Lespwa, the OPL, the Christian Movement for a New Haiti (MOCHRENA), the Haitian Social-Democratic Fusion Party, and the Rally of Progressive National Democrats (RDNP).

President Préval called on voters to give his Lespwa party a majority in the Senate. Earlier, the President had hinted at his intention to amend the 1987 Constitution to increase the powers of the executive and allow the president to seek two consecutive terms.

The Lavalas Family Party called for a boycott of the election under its "Operation Closed Door" campaign. Prime Minister Pierre-Louis criticized the call for a boycott.

Turnout in the first round was reportedly very low, at around 11 per cent of the 4.5 million registered voters. A large number of eligible voters reportedly had not received their national identification card.

Although several sporadic incidents of violence and intimidation were reported, the elections went relatively smoothly for the most part. However, in the Central Department, one election commission officer was shot and wounded and a number of ballot boxes were destroyed. The CEP invalidated the elections in several constituencies of that Department.

On 28 April, the CEP announced that no candidates had secured a majority to be elected in the first round and that run-off elections would take place on 7 June. The run-off elections were subsequently postponed to 21 June.

The Lavalas Family Party continued to call for a boycott in the second round. No official turnout figures for the second round was announced but turnout was expected to be lower than in the first round.

The final results were announced on 24 July, and gave six seats to the Lespwa party. Four other parties took one seat each and one independent candidate was elected. The results in the Central Department were invalidated, leaving one vacant seat. No women were elected.

Some sitting senators rejected the final results, arguing that massive fraud had been committed during the second round of voting in the departments of Artibonite and South. The validation of the newly-elected senators was postponed as a result.

On 4 September, the Senate validated the newly-elected members, paving the way for the Bureau of the outgoing legislature to resign.

On 9 September, the Senate re-elected Mr. Kelly C. Bastien (Lespwa) as its President.

Election results and statistics

► Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 4,500,000
Voters	About 11%

► Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Front for Hope (Lespwa)	6
Haiti Acts (Ayiti an Aksyon, AAA)	1
Haitian Social-Democratic Fusion Party	1
Cooperative Action to Build Haiti (KONBA)	1
People's Struggle Party (OPL)	1
Independents	1
Total	11

► Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	11	
Women	0	0.00 %
Total	11	

HONDURAS

National Congress

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congreso Nacional / National Congress
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	128 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	29 November 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

18 constituencies corresponding to the country's departments (number of seats varies according to population).

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

- proportional representation using closed party-lists, and the simple quotient (Hare), with seats allocated on the basis of greatest remainders for multi-member constituencies

- First past the post system for single-member constituencies

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members.

Voting is compulsory (but there are no sanctions).

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Honduran citizenship

Disqualifications: prisoners, criminal conviction, incompetency, members of the armed forces

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 21 years

- Honduran citizenship

- birth in constituency where running or residence there for at least five years

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- certain public posts
- high-ranking positions in State institutions
- government contractor within six months of the elections

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- political party or independent candidatures
- nomination to be submitted between convocation of elections and at least 45 days before poll

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 29 May 2009, the Electoral Tribunal called parliamentary and presidential elections for 29 November. These elections took place after a coup d'état in June 2009.

In the previous elections, held in November 2005, the Liberal Party (PL) won 62 of the 128 seats in the National Congress; the ruling party at the time, the National Party (PN), took 55 seats. A former minister of investment, Mr. Manuel Zelaya (PL), was elected President, defeating the then Speaker of the Congress, Mr. Porfirio Lobo Sosa (PN). In January 2006, the National Congress elected Mr. Roberto Micheletti (PL) as its new Speaker.

In August 2008, Honduras joined the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas (ALBA), promoted by Venezuela. This reportedly alienated many PL members.

On 24 March 2009, President Zelaya called a referendum for 28 June which would ask Hondurans whether they wished to vote to establish a Constituent Assembly that would prepare a new constitution.

Both the National Congress and the army opposed the idea, arguing that the President was trying to lift the presidential term limit. Mr. Zelaya's four-year term was due to end in January 2010, and he was constitutionally barred from running in the 2009 elections. On 25 June, the Supreme Court ruled that the consultation (referendum) was unconstitutional. The commander-in-chief of the armed forces subsequently refused to follow the President's order to distribute ballot boxes for the referendum. The President then dismissed him.

On 27 June, the National Congress started impeachment proceedings against the President to determine whether he had violated the Constitution.

In the early morning of 28 June, before the start of the planned consultation, the army seized President Zelaya and put him on a flight to Costa Rica. Later on the same day, the National Congress voted to remove the President from office for "repeated violations of the Constitution and the law". The Supreme Court announced that it had authorized the President's removal to uphold law and order. Speaker Micheletti became de facto President. The Electoral Tribunal announced that presidential elections would take place on 29 November 2009 as scheduled. Mr. Micheletti would remain de facto President until 27 January 2010, when the newly elected president would take office. On 30 June, the Attorney General issued a warrant for Mr. Zelaya's arrest that listed 18 crimes, including abuse of power and treason.

The Organization of American States (OAS) condemned the military coup and demanded Mr. Zelaya's immediate reinstatement. On 4 July, it suspended Honduras' membership. Costa Rican President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Oscar Arias hosted three rounds of talks from 9 July between representatives of Mr. Zelaya and de facto President Micheletti, but the parties failed to reach an agreement.

On 21 September, Mr. Zelaya secretly returned to Honduras and took refuge in the Brazilian embassy in the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa. De facto President Micheletti initially demanded that Brazil hand over Mr. Zelaya to stand trial. The representatives of the interim government subsequently held several rounds of informal talks with Mr. Zelaya amid mounting international criticism. On 29 October, under the mediation of US diplomats, both sides signed an agreement to recognize the 2009 election results and form a unity government that would rule the country until Mr. Zelaya's term expired in January 2010. The agreement also stipulated that the National Congress would vote whether to restore the pre-June 2009 situation of the country. If approved, Mr. Zelaya could be restored to power until the next president was sworn in on 27 January 2010. The agreement did not set any deadline for the vote.

On 5 November, de facto President Micheletti formed a "unity" government without Mr. Zelaya's participation, arguing that the latter had not submitted any representatives for the new government. Mr. Zelaya announced that he would pull out of the US-brokered deal and called for a boycott of the presidential election. On 17 November, Speaker Jose Alfredo Saavedra announced that the National Congress would convene on 2 December to debate Mr. Zelaya's reinstatement. He added that it would have to consult

with the Supreme Court before the vote. On 26 November, the Supreme Court recommended that the National Congress vote against reinstating Mr. Zelaya as President since he faced several criminal charges.

The 2009 elections were held amid international criticism over the legitimacy of the presidential elections. Once again they pitted the PN against the PL. The latter was reportedly split over the ouster of Mr. Zelaya.

The PN again fielded Mr. Lobo as its candidate. The PL endorsed Mr. Elvin Santos, who had served as vice-president under Mr. Zelaya.

Both parties campaigned on similar platforms, promising to deal with the global recession, encourage private investment to create jobs, tackle crime and increase social benefits for the poor. Seventy per cent of the country's 7 million inhabitants reportedly live in poverty. The election manifestos were overshadowed by the political crisis triggered by the coup.

The PN's presidential candidate, Mr. Lobo, said that, if elected, he would talk with Mr. Zelaya with a view to allowing him to leave the Brazilian embassy without fear of arrest.

On 26 November, the main presidential candidates signed an agreement pledging to respect the outcome of the elections and constitutional term limits for the presidency.

Mr. Santos (PL) reiterated that the agreement was important so as to avoid another political crisis. He added, in reference to the Presidents, that the National Congress must ensure that "no one tries to invent a reason to stay". He also promised to withdraw from ALBA, which, in his view, had given rise to "enormous problems" instead of benefits.

Student organizations blocked the entrance to a university in the capital Tegucigalpa that was supposed to be used as a polling station. They argued that the elections were illegal.

On 29 November, around 50 per cent of the 4.6 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

Amid fears of unrest, about 35,000 police and soldiers were deployed across the country. Several hundred protesters gathered in the city of San Pedro Sula but no major incidents were reported.

The final results gave 71 seats to the PN. The PL followed with 45 seats. The remainder went to small parties. 23 women were elected.

Mr. Lobo (PN) won the presidential elections with 56 per cent of the votes.

Argentina and Brazil announced that they would not recognize any government installed after the 2009 elections. They argued that doing so would legitimize the coup. Costa Rica and the United States announced that they would accept the election results. The United States said that the elections had been an important step forward but that significant work was still needed to restore democratic and constitutional order in Honduras.

On 2 December, the outgoing legislature voted against reinstating Mr. Zelaya as President.

On 21 January 2010, the newly elected National Congress held its first session. On 25 January, it elected Mr. Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado (PN) as its new Speaker.

On 27 January, Mr. Lobo was sworn in as the country's President.

Shortly after Mr. Lobo was sworn in, Mr. Zelaya went into exile in the Dominican Republic.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 4,600,000	
Voters	2,300,056	About 50%
Blank or invalid ballot papers	154,044	
Valid votes	2,146,012	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
National Party (PN)	71
Liberal Party (PL)	45
Christian Democratic Party of Honduras (PDCH)	5
Party of Democratic Unification (PUD)	4
Innovation and Unity Party (PINU)	3
Total	128

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	105	
Women	23	17.97 %
Total	128	

ICELAND

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Althingi / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	63 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	25 April 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament following the early dissolution of this body on 13 March 2009. Elections had previously taken place on 12 May 2007.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

Multi-member constituencies of 10 to 11 seats each. The exact number and boundaries of constituencies are determined by the Electoral Law.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party list system using closed party lists.

Fifty four of the 63 seats are allocated on the basis of constituency results (d'Hondt). The nine remaining seats are supplementary seats attached to particular constituencies. Supplementary seats are allocated according to the d'Hondt method, in order to give each party a number of seats in proportion to its share of the national vote. A party must win 5% of the national vote to obtain a supplementary seat. Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by deputy members (substitutes) elected at the same time as titular members, in the order of their appearance on the party list in question.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Icelandic citizenship

- legal residence in the country (citizens legally residing abroad and having resided in Iceland for some time can also vote under certain conditions)

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 18 years
- Icelandic citizenship (citizens of "unblemished character")

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Supreme Court judges
- Ombudsman
- President of the Republic

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- each party list of candidates must be supported by a given number of electors; the number needed is 30 to 40 times the number of representatives of the constituency in question

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The April 2009 elections were held against the backdrop of the global financial crisis, which brought down the Government in January 2009. They were not constitutionally due until May 2011.

In the previous elections, held in May 2007, the then Prime Minister Geir Haarde's Independence Party (IP) won 25 seats. The IP had dominated Icelandic politics since the country gained independence from Denmark in 1944. Since 1995, it had led a coalition government with the Progressive Party (PP). After the 2007 elections, however, Mr. Haarde formed a new coalition government with the Social Democratic Alliance Party (SDA), which took 18 seats.

The nation of 315,000 inhabitants had enjoyed rapid economic growth thanks to investments in the financial sector. However, the financial crisis that erupted in the United States in 2008 severely damaged Iceland's economy. In October 2008, the country's three main banks collapsed within the space of a week. The national debt soared to ten times the gross domestic product.

Despite emergency aid of nearly US\$ 1.4 billion under an International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout plan and an additional loan of US\$ 2.5 billion from Iceland's Nordic neighbours (Finland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden), the country's currency, the krona, continued to plummet and unemployment and inflation spiralled. The IMF predicted that the economy would shrink by 9.6 per cent in 2009, the biggest slump since independence.

On 24 January 2009, nearly 7,000 citizens protested in front of the parliament building, demanding that the Prime Minister resign. The Prime Minister tried in vain to save the situation by proposing early elections in May and ultimately announced that he would step down on 26 January.

On 1 February 2009, a caretaker government was formed by the SDA and the Left - Green Movement (LGM). Ms. Johanna Sigurdardottir (SDA) became the country's first female prime minister.

On 13 March, President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson issued a decree dissolving parliament and calling elections for 25 April. Former Prime Minister Haarde announced that he would not run for health reasons. Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson, Jr. led the IP in the 2009 elections.

The main contenders were the SDA, the LGM, the IP, the PP and the Liberal Party. Two new parties formed after the financial crisis - the Civic Movement (CM) and the Democracy Movement (DC) - were also vying for seats.

Although the SDA and the LGM said they would form a new coalition government, they disagreed on a key issue, the country's accession to the European Union (EU). Ms. Sigurdardottir's SDA pledged to join the EU and introduce its currency, the euro, in order to save the country's economy. The LGM, on the other hand, led by Finance Minister Steingrímur Sigfússon, proposed a currency union with Norway. The LGM and the CM pledged to organize a referendum before the country joined the EU.

The IP argued that EU membership would not be in the country's interests because Iceland's fisheries would be regulated by the EU. For its part, the PP promised to start discussions on EU membership.

In all, 85.10 per cent of some 228,000 registered voters turned out at the polls.

The SDA came in first with 20 seats; its coalition partner, the LGM, took 14. The IP and the PP took 16 and nine seats respectively. The CM won four while the LP and the DC failed to win parliamentary representation.

The number of women increased to 27 (42.86 per cent), up from 20 (31.75 per cent) in the 2007 elections. The elections also resulted in a high turnover of members, with 27 candidates (42.86 per cent) being elected to parliament for the first time.

On 15 May, the newly elected Parliament held its first session and elected Ms. Ásta R. Jóhannesdóttir (SDA) as its new Speaker.

In the meantime, on 11 May, the SDA and the LGM formed a new coalition government, thus renewing Ms. Sigurdardóttir's premiership. It was the first left-wing government in Iceland. For the first time in over six decades, the IP did not participate in the government.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	227,896	
Voters	193,934	85.10 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	6,754	
Valid votes	187,180	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats	Gain/Loss
Social Democratic Alliance (SDA)	55,758	29.79	20	2
Independence Party (IP)	44,369	23.70	16	-9
Left - Green Movement (LGM)	40,580	21.68	14	5
Progressive Party (PP)	27,699	14.80	9	2
Civic Movement (CM)	13,519	7.22	4	-
Total			63	

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	36	
Women	27	42.86 %
Total	63	

INDIA

House of the People

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Sansad / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Lok Sabha / House of the People
Number of members	545 members - 543 directly elected - 2 appointed: Two members of the Anglo-Indian Community are nominated by the President. The Constitution provides that the House shall have a maximum of 552 members. Up to 530 members represent the states, up to 20 members represent the union territories and not more than two members of the Anglo-Indian Community are nominated by the President, if, in the President's opinion, that community is not adequately represented in the House.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	16 April 2009 - 13 May 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for 543 elective seats of the House of the People (Lok Sabha) upon the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

543 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

First past the post system.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections within six months for elective seats (unless the remaining term is less than one year) and by nomination by the President for the two appointed seats.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Indian citizenship
 - ordinary residence in the constituency where voting takes place
- Disqualifications: insanity, conviction and imprisonment sentence of at least two years (within last six years), electoral offence, and certain other convictions

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 25 years
- Indian citizenship
- ineligibility: undischarged bankruptcy, allegiance to a foreign State, certain convictions or dismissals

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- members of the armed forces
- certain offices of profit (e.g. public offices, government contractors)

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by one qualified elector (party candidates) or 10 such electors (Independents)
- deposit of 10,000 rupees (5,000 rupees for candidates of Scheduled Caste or Tribe), reimbursed if the candidate is elected or obtains more than 1/6 of the valid votes cast in the constituency

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 2 March 2009, the Election Commission announced that elections to the House of the People (Lok Sabha) would be held in April and May 2009. As before, they were held over a five week period - between 16 April and 13 May - in order to ensure a smooth electoral process involving 714 million registered voters. At stake were 543 directly elected seats, two other seats being nominated by the President.

In the previous elections held in April and May 2004, the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), led by the Indian National Congress (INC), won 214 seats while the then ruling coalition, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), took 187 seats. INC leader and widow of slain former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Ms. Sonia Gandhi declined to take up the prime ministerial post due to a controversy over her Italian origin. In May, Mr. Manmohan Singh, a member of the Council of States (upper chamber), was inaugurated as the country's first Sikh Prime Minister. He subsequently led a coalition government comprising

nearly 20 centre-left parties.

Mr. Singh, who served as Finance Minister in 1990s, promoted free market policies that boosted the country's economy. He signed a nuclear cooperation agreement with the United States under which India, which has not signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, would gain access to US civilian nuclear technology and fuel. Four parties, including the Communist Party of India (Marxist), argued that the agreement would increase US influence on India's foreign and nuclear policy. They subsequently left the coalition government, triggering a vote of no-confidence in July 2008. Mr. Singh's government survived by a one-vote majority thanks to the support of other parties in his coalition and the opposition Socialist Party. In November, terrorists went on a hostage-taking and killing rampage in Mumbai that left 166 people dead. The government was criticized for being unprepared for a terrorist attack. In January 2009, the 78-year old Prime Minister underwent heart surgery. It was widely expected that Mr. Rahul Gandhi, son of INC leader Sonia Gandhi, would become the INC's candidate for the premiership.

The 2009 elections once again saw a duel between the UPA, led by Ms. Gandhi's INC, and the NDA, led by Mr. Lal Krishna Advani's BJP. Neither of the coalitions was expected to win an outright majority in the new legislature.

In March, several leftist and regional parties formed another electoral alliance, the Third Front. It included the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Communist Party of India (CPI), the Revolutionary Socialist Party, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the Forward Bloc, the Janata Dal (Secular), the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, and the Telugu Desam Party.

The Majority Society Party (Bahujan Samaj Party, BSP), which had won 18 seats in the 2004 elections, initially announced that it would stay out of the Third Front but subsequently joined it. The BSP is led by Ms. Mayawati Kumari, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh state. As a member of the Dalit caste, she draws her support from Dalits in the various states.

In all, 8,070 candidates, including 490 women, representing 1,000 parties, stood for election.

The 2009 elections were held against the backdrop of an economic downturn, triggered by the recent global financial crisis. Gross domestic

product (GDP) growth dropped to 5.3 per cent in the final quarter of 2008, compared to 9 per cent a year earlier.

Both the UPA and the NDA underscored the need for economic stimulus plans and proposed various tax reductions and a plan to provide food to the poor.

The INC promised to abolish taxes on goods and services in order to reduce the tax burden of entrepreneurs and consumers. It also promised to enact a "Right to Food" law that would entitle families living below the poverty line to 25 kg of rice or wheat per month at 3 rupees per kilogramme. The party vowed to provide a comprehensive social security plan for the disabled, the elderly, the homeless as well as members of tribal groups and Dalit communities. It also pledged to reserve 33 per cent of the seats in Parliament and state legislatures for women, a bill the INC had failed to pass in the outgoing legislature.

The BJP accused Mr. Singh's government of mismanaging the economy. BJP leader Advani promised to abolish income tax for persons earning less than 300,000 rupees (about US\$ 6,000) a year. He also promised to lower interest rates on housing loans and exempt all citizens over the age of 60 from paying taxes of any kind. The BJP criticized Mr. Singh for not taking adequate counter-terrorism measures. It pledged to introduce a tougher law to counter terrorism and enhance the security of the sub-continent's coastline.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist), which led the Third Front, pledged to increase taxes for the "super rich", to introduce an inheritance tax and to reinstate a long-term capital gains tax to combat speculation. The party continued to criticize the government over the nuclear agreement with the US, arguing that ordinary citizens could not afford the planned electricity prices. Regional parties and other small parties promised to provide cheaper electricity.

Overall turnout was recorded at 63.16 per cent of the 714 million registered voters.

Maoist rebels disrupted the first phase of polling by attacking polling stations. Clashes between the rebels and the police claimed at least 17 lives. The other phases took place in relative peace, although a heatwave reportedly kept voters at home in the fourth phase of the elections.

The final results gave 261 seats to the UPA and 159 to the NDA. The parties in the Third Front won a total of 78 seats.

On 20 May, President Pratibha Devisingh Patil appointed Mr. Singh as Prime Minister for a second term. Mr. Singh's new cabinet was supported by the UPA, the Samajwadi Party, three members of the Janata Dal (United), several independent members as well as the BSP which was a part of the Third Front.

On 2 June, the newly elected House of the People (Lok Sabha) held its first session. The following day, Ms. Meira Kumar (INC), who had previously been appointed as Minister of Water Resources, was unanimously elected as its new Speaker, becoming the first woman to assume the post.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	713,776,525	
Voters	450,850,568	63.16 %

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

United Progressive Alliance (UPA)	261
Indian National Congress (INC)	206
All India Trinamool Congress	19
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	18
Nationalist Congress Party	9
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	3
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	2
Muslim League Kerala State Committee	2
Kerala Congress (M)	1
Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katch	1
National Democratic Alliance (NDA) alliance	159
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	116
Janata Dal (United)	20
Shivsena	11
Rashtriya Lok Dal	5
Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)	4
Telangana Rashtra Samithi	2
Asom Gana Parishad (Assam People's Federation)	1
Third Front	78
Majority Society Party (BSP)	21
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	16
Biju Janata Dal	14
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	9
Telugu Desam	6
Communist Party of India (CPI)	4
Janata Dal (Secular)	3
Revolutionary Socialist Party	2
All India Forward Bloc	2
Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	1
Samajwadi Party	22
Rashtriya Janata Dal	4
All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen	1
Assam United Democratic Front	1
Bahujan Samaj Party	1
Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi	1
Bodoland Peoples Front	1
Haryana Janhit Congress (BL)	1
Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik)	1

Nagaland Peoples Front	1
Sikkim Democratic Front	1
Swabhimani Paksha	1
Independents	9
Total	543

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Directly elected	Appointed	Total	
Men	485	1	486	
Women	58	1	59	10.83 %
Total	543	2	545	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Social worker	261
Agriculture/farming	251
Entrepreneur	109
Legal profession	75
Education profession	53
Writer, literary, artist	27
Physician, dentist	21
Economist	20
Trade union official	11
Journalism, broadcasting, media	10
Civil service and local authority administration	8
Research/sciences	3
Armed services/Police	2
International civil servant	1
IT/technology	1
Architect, surveyor, engineer	1
Others	34
Total	888

Note:

Some members have listed more than one primary occupation.

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	5
31 to 40 years	57
41 to 50 years	130
51 to 60 years	192
61 to 70 years	113
Over 70 years	46
Unknown	2
Total	545

INDONESIA

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat / House of Representatives
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	560 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	9 April 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

33 multi-member constituencies corresponding to the provinces.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party list proportional system.

Voters may cast their ballot for either a political party or a candidate.

In order to win parliamentary representation, parties must surpass the threshold of 2.5 cent of the total votes. Seats are distributed according to the Hare quotient. Any candidates who win 30 per cent of the divisor (the lowest electoral quotient) are automatically elected.

Vacancies of elective seats arising between general elections are filled by a nominee selected by the same party.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 17 years or married at the time of registration

- Indonesian citizenship

Disqualifications: insanity, ex-members of the prohibited Indonesian Communist Party or affiliated mass organisations, direct or indirect involvement in the attempted Communist coup of 1965, imprisonment or confinement of at least five years' duration, members of the armed forces

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 21 years
- Indonesian citizenship
- proficiency in Indonesian language
- graduation from a secondary high school or equivalent knowledge and experience in social and governmental activities
- loyalty to Pancasila as the basic ideology of the State

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- members of the armed forces
- civil servants

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

Submission of candidates by political parties (independent candidates are not allowed).

Political parties which contested the previous elections are automatically qualified to endorse candidates while other parties must submit to the scrutiny of the General Election Commission.

Political parties must ensure that at least 30 per cent of their candidates are women.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2009 parliamentary elections were held three months ahead of the presidential elections. At stake were the 560 seats in the enlarged House of Representatives.

In the previous elections held in April 2004, Golkar, the party of former President Suharto, came in first, winning 122 of the then 550-member House of Representatives. The Indonesia Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), led by then President Megawati Sukarnoputri took 109 seats. Other major parties that won parliamentary representation were the United Development Party (PPP, 58 seats), the Democratic Party (PD, 56), the National Mandate Party (PAN, 53), the National Awakening Party (PKB, 52) and the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS, 45). In September 2004, Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (PD) defeated Ms. Megawati in the run-off presidential elections.

In March 2008, the House of Representatives passed a new General Election Law, whereby parties must win 2.5 per cent of the national vote to win parliamentary representation. Parties which contested the previous elections were automatically qualified for the 2009 ballot while other parties had to submit to the scrutiny of the General Elections Commission.

Indonesia's election campaign lasts nearly for nine months. The campaign for the 2009 elections started on 12 July 2008 and ended on 5 April 2009. Some 12,000 candidates representing 38 parties were running nationwide. They included about 360 women. The 2005 Helsinki Agreement, signed between the Government and the rebel Free Aceh Movement (GAM), paved the way for the establishment of local political parties in Aceh. In addition to the 38 national political parties, six local parties were running in Aceh.

The 2009 parliamentary elections were the first crucial step in the race for the presidency since the new law on presidential elections (No. 42/2008) stipulates that only parties or a coalition of parties with 20 per cent of seats in the 560-seat House of Representatives or 25 per cent of valid votes may nominate a candidate for the presidential elections.

Despite the global economic crisis, the country's economy did not enter into a recession. Many parties nevertheless focused on the economy.

President Yudhoyono called on voters' support to continue his reformist policies, arguing that his government was taking sufficient measures to protect the country from the economic downturn. Indonesia's foreign investment regulations allow for limited capital ownership, and the PD, the President's party, promised equal treatment of local and foreign investors. The PDI-P said it would welcome foreign investors in the country as long as they were clean and willing to transfer their technology. Golkar, led by Vice-President Muhammad Jusuf Kalla, promised to extend the range of business open to foreign investors. It also pledged to provide welfare and a livelihood to "all struggling people".

Some Islamic parties - such as the PKS, the PAN and the PKB - adopted more moderate positions to attract voters. However, that strategy reportedly caused internal divisions within the PKS. Other Islamic parties which had won seats in the 2004 elections - the PPP and Crescent Moon and Star Party (PBB, 11 seats) - were reportedly losing ground. PDI-P leader Megawati held talks with the PPP while the PD engaged with the PKB. Pre-election polls indicated that only the PD would secure over 25 per cent of the votes nationwide.

A number of organizations filed lawsuits against the government and the General Elections Commission over voters' lists. At least 10 million citizens were reportedly disenfranchised. More than 1,000 electoral violations were reported, twice the number recorded in 2004.

70.99 per cent of the 171 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

Several opposition parties, including the PDI-P, criticized the elections, arguing that they had been marred with fraud and administrative errors.

On 9 May, the General Elections Commission announced the final results. President Yudhoyono's PD won 20.85 per cent of the votes, or 148 seats. Golkar followed with 14.45 per cent of the votes (108 seats). The PDI-P finished in third position with 14.03 per cent (93 seats).

The Islamic parties together polled of 24.15 per cent of votes, their worst showing in the country's history. The local media concluded that many voters had focused more on growth and jobs in view of the global economic crisis.

On 1 October, the newly elected House of Representatives held its first session and elected Mr. Marzuki Alie (PD) as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	171,265,442	
Voters	121,588,366	70.99 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	17,488,581	
Valid votes	104,099,785	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Democrats Party (PD)	21,703,137	20.85	148
Golkar	15,037,757	14.45	108
Indonesian Democratic Party - Struggle (PDI-P)	14,600,091	14.03	93
Prosperous Justice Party (PKS)	8,206,955	7.88	59
National Mandate Party (PAN)	6,254,580	6.01	42
United Development Party (PPP)	5,533,215	5.32	39
Great Indonesia Movement Party	4,646,406	4.46	30
National Awakening Party (PKB)	5,146,122	4.94	26
People's Conscience Party	3,922,870	3.77	15
Total			560

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	458	
Women	102	18.21 %
Total	560	

ISRAEL

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Knesset / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	120 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	10 February 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament (Knesset) following its early dissolution on 10 November 2008. General elections had previously been held in March 2006.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

1 multi-member constituency for 120 seats

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Closed party list proportional representation system. Seats are distributed according to the simple quotient and highest average system (d'Hondt method) among all lists having obtained at least 2 per cent of the valid votes cast. Within each list, seats won are allotted to candidates according to their order of appearance on the list.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate on the party list concerned.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Israeli citizenship (including naturalized citizens)

- registered residence in the country

Disqualifications: anyone denied the right to vote by court application of the law; citizens overseas (except for all State employees and employees of Jewish institutions recognized by the State, their spouses and their children aged 18 to 20 years, and ships' crew members and passengers under certain conditions)

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 21

- Israeli citizenship (including naturalized citizens); candidates with dual citizenship can only stand if they are unable to give up the other citizenship

Ineligibilities: If a court of law has denied the candidate the right to be elected by law, or if he/she has been sentenced to imprisonment for at least five years for violating national security and five years have not elapsed since the prison term was served

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the State

- Chief Rabbis

- Judges of civil and religious courts

- State Comptroller

- Paid religious officials

- All officers in the professional army

- Senior civil servants

- Senior officers in the police and prisons service

- Senior employees of associations established by law

The incompatibilities above apply unless the candidates have ceased to serve in these positions before the lists of candidates are submitted or on the dates stipulated by law.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Candidates must be on a list to run for election. A list may be registered by a party or a group of parties. Lists that explicitly or implicitly reject the Jewish and/or democratic nature of the State, incite to racism, or support the armed struggle of an enemy State or a terrorist organization acting against the State of Israel cannot run in elections.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

Early elections for the Knesset were called upon the expiry of the deadline for the formation of a new coalition government following Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's decision to resign.

In the previous elections held in March 2006, the centrist Kadima party became the largest party with 29 seats, while the right-wing Likud party, led by former prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu, took 12 seats. Kadima was created in November 2005 by former prime minister Ariel Sharon on his

departure from Likud. Mr. Sharon suffered a massive stroke in December 2005 and was succeeded by Mr. Olmert as Kadima leader. Following the 2006 elections, Mr. Olmert formed a coalition government with the Labour Party, Shas (an orthodox party) and Gil (Pensioners' Party), controlling 67 seats in the 120-member parliament.

In July 2008, due to a series of corruption scandals, Mr. Olmert announced that he would resign as prime minister. In September, Kadima elected Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni as its new leader. She failed to reach a coalition agreement with other parties before the extended deadline of 26 October. On 30 October, Knesset Speaker, Ms. Dalia Itzik, set the election date for 10 February 2009, 13 months earlier than the constitutional due date. The Knesset was dissolved on 10 November in view of the elections. Mr. Olmert remained the caretaker prime minister until the new government was formed.

A total of 34 parties participated in the 2009 elections. The initial polls put Kadima in the lead, with its leader, Ms. Livni, promising clean leadership and peace talks aimed at achieving a two-State solution with Palestine.

However, the election campaign took place against the background of Israeli military operations against Hamas in the Gaza Strip that began on 27 December. The operations resulted in the death of some 1,300 Palestinians and 13 Israelis. Mr. Netanyahu criticized Kadima and the Labour Party for ending the military operations "too early", insisting that Israel should have destroyed Hamas. Defence Minister Ehud Barak (Labour) argued that the operation had restored Israel's military deterrent and brought it back on "the right course to achieve peace and quiet".

In January 2009, the High Court of Justice overturned the Central Elections Committee's decision to disqualify two Arab parties - Balad and the United Arab List (Ta'al) - from taking part in the 2009 elections. Mr. Avigdor Lieberman, leader of the nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu, criticized the court's decision, which in his view would allow the Arab parties to "kill Israel's character as a Jewish and democratic State". He pledged to pass a citizenship bill in the new legislature to "end the disloyalty shown by some of Israel's Arabs" and insisted that Israel should not enter into any peace process with the Palestinians.

In all, 65.20 per cent of some 5.2 million eligible voters turned out at the polls.

Twelve parties surpassed the two-percent threshold to win parliamentary representation. As was the case in previous elections, no party secured an outright majority. Kadima came in first with 28 seats, losing one. Likud gained 15 more seats, taking 27 in all. The leaders of both parties claimed victory. Yisrael Beiteinu and the Labour Party took 15 and 13 seats respectively, followed by Shas with 11 seats. The remainder went to small parties.

On 24 February, the newly elected Knesset held its first session. On 30 March, it elected a former Speaker, Mr. Reuven Rivlin (Likud), as its new Speaker.

In the meantime, on 20 February, President Shimon Peres designated Mr. Netanyahu (Likud) as Prime Minister. Mr. Netanyahu subsequently formed a coalition government comprising Likud, Yisrael Beiteinu, the Labour Party, Shas, the United Torah Judaism (Yahadut Hatorah) and the National Union. On 31 March, the Knesset endorsed the new government.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	5,278,985	
Voters	About 3,442,000	65.20 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats	Gain/Loss
Kadima	28	-1
Likud	27	15
Yisrael Beiteinu	15	4
Labour Party	13	-6
Shas	11	-1
United Torah Judaism (Yahadut Hatorah)	5	-1
Hadash	4	1
National Union	4	
United Arab List (Ta'al)	4	0
Jewish Home (Habayit Hayehudi)	3	
Meretz	3	-2
National Democratic Alliance (Balad)	3	0
Total	120	

Note:

In the 2006 elections, the United Arab List (Ta'al) and the Arab Movement for

Renewal (Ra'am) ran together and won four seats.

The Jewish Home (Habayit Hayehudi) was formed in 2008 under the leadership of Mr. Daniel Hershkowitz. It comprises members of the National Religious Party, which had split with the National Union.

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	99	
Women	21	17.50 %
Total	120	

JAPAN

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Kokkai / National Diet
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Shugiin / House of Representatives
Number of members	480 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	30 August 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives following the early dissolution of this body on 21 July 2009. Elections to the House of Representatives had previously taken place on 11 September 2005.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 300 single-member constituencies (majority system)
- 11 multi-member (6 to 29 seats) constituencies (proportional representation system)

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

- First past the post vote in 300 single-member constituencies
- party list proportional representation system for the remaining 180 seats. These seats are distributed using the d'Hondt method based on the parties' share of the national vote in the 11 large constituencies.
- Candidates may run for both the single-member and the proportional representation seats. However, these so called "duplicate" candidates are only allowed to run for the proportional representation block in which their single-member constituency is located.
- Each party's proportional representation list includes candidates who take part in the proportional representation poll alone, adding up to the fixed number of seats for each bloc plus duplicate candidates from single-member constituencies.
- Candidates running in single seat constituencies must obtain at least one sixth of all valid votes to obtain a seat.
- Vacant proportional representation seats are filled by the "next in line" candidate of the same party, regardless of the number of votes obtained. However, in the case of duplicate candidates, the number

of votes obtained must be higher than the statutory number of votes, i.e. one tenth of all valid votes.

- By elections are held to fill vacant single-member seats. They are held twice a year, in April and October.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 20 years

- Japanese citizenship

- domicile registered in a constituency for at least three months

Japanese nationals living abroad, who fulfill the following conditions and are registered on the electoral commission's overseas voters' list of the final place of residence in Japan can vote in general and parliamentary elections:

- Persons who have notified their town hall of a change in their location and of final residence in Japan;

- Persons who have been registered at the Japanese Embassy/Consulate as a Japanese citizen living abroad for at least three months (or those who can prove their residence over the past three months).

Disqualifications:

- Persons recognized as a ward of the court by a family court;

- Persons sentenced to imprisonment or a more severe form of punishment and who have not completed their sentences;

- Persons sentenced to imprisonment or a more severe form of punishment and to whom the sentence still applies (excluding persons for whom execution of the sentence is suspended);

- Persons sentenced to imprisonment or to a more severe form of punishment for an electoral offence, and who are given suspended sentences;

- Persons who, during their tenure as public office-holders, were convicted of bribery. This disqualification is valid during the term of the sentence and for five years thereafter;

- Persons who have committed an election-related crime provided for in the Public Offices Election Act;

- Persons who have committed a crime provided for in the Public Funds Control Act.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 25 years

- Japanese citizenship

Ineligibilities: Persons who, during their tenure as public office holders, have been convicted of bribery. This disqualification is valid during the term of the sentence and for five years thereafter.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- official post in Government or local public entity

- officer or staff of public corporation

- a member may, during his term of office, be appointed as a member of a commission, advisor, counsellor or other functionary of similar nature in any executive branch of the Cabinet, on a concurrent decision of both Houses

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- deposit of 3,000,000 yen in single-member constituencies, forfeited if the number of votes obtained is less than 10 per cent of the total valid votes.

- deposit of 6,000,000 yen for each candidate on the list of a political party, or 3,000,000 yen if that candidate is also running in a single-member constituency, forfeited according to the formula given below.

Amount to be forfeited = deposited amount - (3,000,000 yen × A + 6,000,000 yen × B × 2)

Note:

(a) A is the number of candidates who run for office in both a single-member constituency and under the proportional representation system, and who are elected in the single-member constituency.

(b) B is the number for proportional representation.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2009 elections to the House of Representatives were the first to be held under the premiership of Mr. Taro Aso, grandson of a prominent former prime minister, Mr. Shigeru Yoshida. Mr. Yoshida co-founded the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in 1955 with his rival Mr. Ichiro Hatoyama, who subsequently became the first LDP prime minister. The LDP had ruled the country ever since except for a short period between 1993 and 1994 when an eight-party "opposition" alliance became the largest force in the House of Representatives. This alliance comprised many LDP dissidents, including Mr. Yukio Hatoyama, a grandson of the former prime minister and the current leader of the opposition Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ).

In the elections to the House of Representatives held in September 2005, the LDP won a resounding victory under the leadership of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi by winning 296 of the 480 seats at stake, whereas the DPJ took 113 seats, losing 64. The LDP's coalition partner, New Komeito, won 31. The Japanese Communist Party (JCP) and the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ) took nine and seven seats respectively. The remainder went to small parties and independent candidates.

Since the 2005 elections, the country had had a succession of three prime ministers in addition to Mr. Koizumi. In September 2006, Mr. Shinzo Abe succeeded Mr. Koizumi. In the elections to the House of Councillors held in July 2007, the LDP suffered a heavy defeat, losing control of the chamber for the first time since the party's inception in 1955. In September 2007, 71 year-old veteran politician and a former chief Cabinet secretary, Mr. Yasuo Fukuda (LDP), succeeded Mr. Abe. A year later, however, he resigned and was succeeded by a former foreign minister, Mr. Aso, shortly after the global economic crisis started to affect the Japanese economy.

Prime Minister Aso initially enjoyed high popularity. However, he soon came under criticism over his government's economic policies. The government introduced several stimulus packages in an attempt to revive the economy. Japan officially came out of the recession after its economy grew by 0.7 per cent in the second quarter of 2009. However, the unemployment rate for July, announced two days before polling day, stood at 5.7 per cent - the highest since the end of the World War II.

On 21 July 2009, Prime Minister Aso dissolved the House of Representatives and called elections for 30 August. A total of 1,374 candidates, including a record 229 women, were vying for seats. Some LDP heavyweights had announced their retirement prior to the elections. They included former prime minister Koizumi and outgoing House Speaker, Mr. Yohei Kono, who had held the post for 2,029 days, the longest period since the parliamentary system was introduced in Japan in 1890.

The 2009 elections saw a duel between the LDP and the DPJ. The DPJ called on voters' support for a political power shift to change the course of the country's history. It promised to cut back wasteful spending and maintain the consumption tax at the prevailing 5 per cent for four years. It also promised to introduce a raft of benefits including child allowances as well as a new income-support system for farmers. The DPJ promised to unify the existing pension funds and to guarantee a minimum pension of JPY 70,000

per month (US\$ 750). It also promised to raise the minimum wage and to cut annual government expenditure by JPY 10 trillion (US\$ 107.5 million) by abolishing what it termed as wasteful public works and other projects.

The LDP ran on its own record and pledged to continue to be a responsible government. It criticized the DPJ for making empty promises and being ambiguous about the financial resources for its policies. The LDP pledged to rebuild the economy within three years and strengthen the basic pension system to ensure that the elderly and people with no or low pensions could lead a decent life. The LDP pledged to implement fundamental tax reforms, including a review of the consumption tax by 2011 on the condition that there was an economic upturn. Its coalition partner, New Komeito, promised to make kindergartens and nurseries free for three years.

The SDPJ promised to cut wasteful spending by postponing public works and budgets for hosting the US military in Japan. The JCP pledged to abolish medical fees for people over 75 years and children under school age. Your Party (Minna-no-to), a new party formed in August by LDP dissidents, claimed to be an alternative force for those who were "unsatisfied" with the LDP's policies and "uneasy" about the DPJ's. Kokumin Shinto (People's New Party) promised to review the privatization of the postal service.

In the 2009 polls, nearly 14 million voters cast early votes. In all, 69.27 per cent of the 104 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The final results gave a resounding victory to the DPJ. It won 308 of the 480 seats at stake, becoming the largest force in the House of Representatives for the first time. Its victory marked a turning point in Japanese politics. The LDP's share of seats dropped to 119, its worst performance since the party's inception. Its coalition partner, New Komeito, took 21, losing ten including that of its leader, Mr. Akihiro Ohta, who stepped down as party leader. The JCP and the SDPJ retained the same number of seats as in the outgoing legislature: nine and seven respectively. Your Party took five. The remainder went to small parties and independent candidates. A record 54 women (11.25 per cent) were elected. It was the first time in the country's history that the percentage of women reached double figures. The DPJ accounted for 40 women, also a record number of women from one party. Mr. Aso announced that he would resign as LDP President.

On 16 September, the newly elected House of Representatives held its first session and elected Mr. Takahiro Yokomichi (DPJ) as its new Speaker.

Mr. Yukio Hatoyama was elected as the new Prime Minister. He subsequently formed a coalition government comprising the DPJ, the SDPJ and Kokumin Shinto (People's New Party).

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout (Proportional representation system)

Number of registered electors	103,949,442	
Voters	72,003,538	69.27 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Majority candi- dates	PR candi- dates	Double candi- dacy
Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ)	271	330	268
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)	289	326	269
New Komeito	8	51	0
Japanese Communist Party (JCP)	152	171	60
Social Democratic Party (SDPJ)	31	37	31
Your Party (Minna no To)	14	15	13
Kokumin Shinto (People's New Party)	9	18	9
Shinto Daichi (New Party Mother Earth)	0	4	0
Shinto Nippon (New Party Japan)	2	8	2
Independents	70	70	0

	Major- ity	PR	Total seats	Gain/ loss	Number of women
Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ)	221	87	308	195	40
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)	64	55	119	-177	8
New Komeito	0	21	21	-10	3
Japanese Communist Party (JCP)	0	9	9	0	1
Social Democratic Party (SDPJ)	3	4	7	0	2
Your Party (Minna no To)	2	3	5	0	0
Kokumin Shinto (People's New Party)	3	0	3	-1	0
Shinto Daichi (New Party Mother Earth)	0	1	1	0	0
Shinto Nippon (New Party Japan)	1	0	1	0	0
Independents	6	0	6	-13	0
Total	300	180	480		54

Note:

The figures under "Double candidacy" show the number of candidates who ran under both the PR and majority systems.

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	426	
Women	54	11.25 %
Total	480	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years		7
31 to 40 years		83
41 to 50 years		131
51 to 60 years		132
61 to 70 years		111
Over 70 years		16
Total		480

KUWAIT

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Majles Al-Ommah / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	65 members - 50 directly elected - 15 others: ministers who were not elected as members. Cabinet members sit ex officio in parliament and enjoy the same voting rights as elected members. Since the Cabinet comprises a maximum of 16 members (including at least one member elected to parliament), this brings the parliament's total membership to 65.
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	16 May 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for the elective seats in the National Assembly following the early dissolution of this body on 18 March 2009. Elections had previously been held on 17 May 2008.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

5 multi-member constituencies (10 seats each)

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Block vote.

Each voter makes no more than four choices. The 10 candidates with the most votes in each district are declared elected. If two candidates receive an equal number of valid votes, the polling committee draws lots and the winner is declared elected.

There is no threshold to win a seat.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections. However, no by-elections are held when a vacancy occurs within six months of the expiry of the legislative term.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 21 years
- citizens of Kuwait with Kuwaiti father
- residence in the country at the time of election
- citizens overseas can not vote

Disqualifications: any imprisonment, persons naturalized within the last 20 years, military personnel and policemen, unrehabilitated persons convicted of a felony or dishonorable crime

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 30 years
- citizens of Kuwait with Kuwaiti father
- residence in the country at the time of election
- ability to read and write in Arabic

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Head of State
- ministers of State
- holders of judicial offices (Judges)
- executives of the Electoral Commission
- members of the Electoral Commission
- members of the armed forces
- members of the police forces

The incompatibilities above are valid during the term of office.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- individual candidatures (there are no political parties)
- deposit of 50 dinars, which is reimbursed if the candidate obtains at least 10 valid votes cast in the constituency. Failing this or if the candidate withdraws, this amount is paid to charity.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 18 March 2009, Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah dissolved the National Assembly due to a standoff between parliament and the government over the latter's response to the recent global economic crisis as well as alleged financial impropriety in the Prime Minister's Office. On 14 April, the Emir issued a decree calling early elections for 17 May, the third in less than three years and only one year after the previous elections.

The National Assembly, the first elected parliament in the Arabian Gulf, was

established in 1963. In 2006, women gained the right to vote and run for parliament. However, no women were elected in the 2006 and 2008 elections, though some women candidates were runners-up in the latter elections.

Although political parties and groups are still banned, political "lists" are allowed to function. In 2009, candidates again ran as independents but many of them belonged to political lists.

Ninety per cent of Kuwaitis are Muslims (one third are Shiites and two thirds are Sunnis). In the previous elections held in May 2008, Islamists made strong gains, obtaining a total of 26 seats. These members included 10 associated with the Islamic Salafi Alliance (ISA), which opposes women's participation in politics. The Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM), better known as "Hadas", which is the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, won three seats. Liberals, including members of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), a sub-faction of the National Democratic Forum, took seven seats. The NDA, as well as two Shiite lists - the National Islamic Alliance (NIA) and the Justice and Peace Alliance (JPA) - are in favour of women's participation. The Popular Action Bloc (a nationalist list) led by former Speaker Ahmad al-Saadoun, took four seats.

In early 2009, following the global economic crisis that had sent oil prices plummeting, the country's leading firms requested a bailout plan. On 3 March, the government submitted a 1.5-million-dinar (US\$ 5.12 billion) stimulus package to the National Assembly. Parliamentarians opposed it, arguing that it would not shield ordinary citizens from the crisis.

In March 2009, the ICM members demanded that the Prime Minister, Sheikh Nasser Mohammad al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, a nephew of the Emir, answer questions about policy decisions and alleged financial irregularities at his office. Two days before the date of the parliamentary questioning, on 16 March, the Prime Minister resigned - for the fifth time since 2006, when he assumed the post. The Emir asked the outgoing prime minister to act in a caretaker capacity until a new government was formed.

The Emir announced on 18 March that he would be dissolving the National Assembly, promising elections within two months. He criticized the "inappropriate practices" of the outgoing legislature that had "ruined" the cooperation between the legislative and the executive branches. With the dissolution of the National Assembly, the Emir and the caretaker government

assumed full legislative powers. On 26 March, the government approved the stimulus package.

In 2009, 210 candidates, including 16 women, were vying for the 50 directly elected seats in the National Assembly, down from 274 candidates, including 28 women, in 2008. Women candidates enjoyed wide media coverage. Prominent candidates included Ms. Maasouma Al-Mubarak, the country's first female minister, and Ms. Aseel Al-Awadhi, a professor at Kuwait University.

Women candidates promised change and reforms, aimed at getting the country out of the economic crisis. Some proposed to amend the law on citizenship so the children of Kuwaiti mothers (in addition to those of Kuwaiti fathers) would be granted Kuwaiti citizenship. Some male candidates also pledged to treat men and women equally, underscoring that the Constitution did not differentiate between sexes. Meanwhile, ISA leader Fuhayd al-Haylam called for a boycott of women candidates, saying that voting for women was a sin.

Other candidates focused on the economy and development, promising to deal with inflation, price increases and unemployment. They added that cooperation between parliament and the executive was the way to get out of the economic and political crises.

No major incidents were reported during the election campaign. However, former parliamentarian Daifallah Buramia was briefly detained along with two other candidates following public speeches in which he allegedly criticized the ruling family.

Over 59 per cent of the nearly 385,000 eligible voters turned out at the polls. Of the eligible voters, 175,679 were men and 209,111 were women.

For the first time, four women were elected. They included Ms. Al-Mubarak and Ms. Al-Awadhi. The latter was elected with the second highest share of the vote (21 per cent) in her constituency.

Overall results gave 11 seats to Sunni Islamists, down from 21. The ISA and the ICM saw their share reduced to two seats and one seat respectively. Shiite members took nine seats, up from five. Liberals took eight seats, up from seven. Candidates from six tribal groupings won a total of 20 seats. In all, 29 outgoing members retained their seats.

On 31 May, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session and re-elected Mr. Jassem M. Al-Kharafi as its Speaker.

In the meantime, on 21 May, the Emir reappointed Sheikh Nasser Mohammad al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah as Prime Minister. The 16-member cabinet included one woman. Since cabinet members sit ex officio in parliament, the number of women members of parliament increased to five.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	384,790
Turnout	Over 59.00 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	46	
Women	4	8.00 %
Total	50	

LEBANON

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Majlis Al-Nuwwab / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	128 directly elected Note: Seats are equally divided between Christian and Muslim members.
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	7 June 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

26 multi-member constituencies

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Block vote (each voter may cast as many votes as the number of MPs elected from each constituency).

Voters may either write the names of candidates on a blank piece of paper provided at the polling station or bring with them a prepared ballot, which already contains the names of the candidates, having taken into account the pre-established distribution of seats among the religious communities. The candidate(s) who win(s) the highest number of votes for each religious community is/are declared elected.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections within 60 days, unless the vacancy occurs within six months of the end of the term of parliament.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Age: 21 years or over as at 30 March of the election year
- Lebanese citizenship by birth

Naturalized citizens are entitled to vote ten years after the naturalization decree is issued. This clause does not apply to foreign women who acquire Lebanese citizenship by marrying a Lebanese citizen.

- There is no residence requirement.

Disqualifications:

- Persons deprived of civil rights or of the right to hold a certain rank or public office
- Persons convicted for a felony or major offences
- Bankrupt persons
- Persons placed in mental institutions
- Members or employees of the armed forces or the police

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- Age: 25 years or over
- Lebanese citizenship or naturalized citizens
- Registration in the voters' list
- Full possession of civil rights
- Ability to read and write

Disqualifications:

- Members or employees of the armed forces or the police unless they retire or relinquish the post six months prior to the election date
- Judges
- Civil servants (except for teaching staff of the Lebanese University)
- Executives of a public corporation
- Presidents and vice-presidents of municipal councils (Muhafazats)

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- members or employees of the armed forces or the police
- certain civil servants and other public officials

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- Candidatures must be submitted at least 60 days before the election date.
- Candidate deposit of two million Lebanese pounds as well as a guarantee of six million Lebanese pounds, which is reimbursed if the candidate obtains at least 20 per cent of the valid votes cast in the constituency.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 5 January 2009, the Interior Ministry issued a decree calling parliamentary elections for 7 June.

The 2009 elections were the first to be held under a new electoral law

approved by the National Assembly in September 2008. The law stipulates that elections are held in a single day, instead of over three days in the past. Although the draft law had proposed to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 years and introduce a 30-per-cent quota for women, neither provision was retained in the final law (see note). Similarly, the establishment of an independent electoral commission and the introduction of officially pre-printed ballot papers were rejected.

Shortly before the previous elections held in February 2005, former prime minister Rafik Hariri, who had been demanding that Syrian troops leave Lebanon, was assassinated. His murder triggered widespread demonstrations and international pressure on Syria, leading to the withdrawal of Syrian troops in April 2005, after a 29-year military presence. In the May-June 2005 elections, the Future Movement Coalition (Martyr Rafik Hariri list), headed by Mr. Saad Hariri, son of the slain former prime minister, won 72 of the 128 seats at stake. Hezbollah (known to be pro-Syrian and pro-Iranian) and its allies, including the Amal Movement, a pro-Syrian party led by Speaker Nabih Berry, came in second with 33 seats. The Free Patriotic Movement, backed by former army chief and interim prime minister Michel Aoun, won 21 seats.

Based on the Taif Agreement of 1989, the office of the Speaker is reserved for Shilte Muslims, while Maronite Christians and Sunni Muslims assume the posts of President and Prime Minister respectively. In late June, Mr. Berry was re-elected as Speaker. President Emile Lahoud appointed Mr. Fouad Siniora as Prime Minister, with the support of Mr. Hariri's coalition.

Mr. Siniora's government included members of Hezbollah (a Shilte Islamic movement created in 1982 following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon) for the first time in Lebanon's history. In July 2006, Hezbollah's military wing attacked Israel, triggering a war between the two countries, which claimed over 1,200 lives. Hezbollah, which claimed victory, reportedly gained support as the perceived "defender of Lebanon" among some citizens. Mr. Siniora's government collapsed in November when members of Hezbollah and the Amal Movement resigned in protest over the establishment of an International Tribunal to try Mr. Rafik Hariri's assassins. The Free Patriotic Movement joined Hezbollah and the Amal Movement in street protests, demanding Hezbollah's right to veto government decisions. President Lahoud's term of office expired in November 2007 and Mr. Siniora became acting President. Due to the standoff between the government and the opposition, the presidential elections were postponed 19 times. In May 2008,

both sides reached an agreement in Doha, Qatar, paving the way for the election of army chief Mr. Michel Suleiman as the new President. He was sworn in in late May. In July, Mr. Siniora formed a 30-member cabinet, which included 11 members of the opposition in keeping with the Doha agreement.

The 2009 elections saw a duel between the opposition "8 March Coalition" and the governing "14 March Coalition", named after a series of demonstrations that followed the assassination of former prime minister Hariri in 2005.

The 8 March Coalition included the pro-Syrian Hezbollah, Speaker Berry's Amal Movement, as well as General Aoun's Free Patriotic Movement. The 14 March Coalition was led by Mr. Saad Hariri, a pro-Western Sunni Muslim. It comprised the parties supporting Prime Minister Siniora, including Mr. Hariri's Future Movement, the Progressive Socialist Party, the Christian Lebanese Forces and the Christian Phalangist party.

Speaker Berry pledged to preserve the image and identity of Lebanon as well as its position in the world after the elections. He criticized Israel, arguing that it was trying to intimidate Lebanese voters into voting against the opposition. Hezbollah Secretary General, Mr. Hassan Nasrallah, asked voters to support for the opposition force in order to bring stability to the country. The US warned that it would reconsider its aid to Lebanon if the 8 March Coalition won the elections. General Aoun pledged to tackle corruption and establish a third republic.

The 14 March Coalition's manifesto focused on national unity. It pledged to establish a "fully sovereign State capable of making crucial decisions". Mr. Hariri called on all parties to set aside their disagreements and support national interests. The leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, Mr. Walid Jumblatt, urged voters to live in harmony and do away with sectarian or political tensions.

On 7 June, 53.98 per cent of the 3.2 million registered voters turned out at the polls. Although some pre-election violence was reported, in general voting took place in relative peace.

The final results gave a victory to the 14 March Coalition. It won 71 seats, 14 more than the opposition camp. Four women were elected.

The European Union's Election Observation Mission praised the participatory spirit of the Lebanese elections, while recommending further electoral reforms, including the use of pre-printed ballot papers. The Carter Center's observation mission applauded the democratic progress seen. It nevertheless noted various shortcomings and recommended that the electoral system be made more representative.

On 20 June, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session. On 25 June, it re-elected Mr. Berry (Amal Movement) as its Speaker. On 27 June, President Suleiman designated Mr. Saad Hariri as Prime Minister. Following protracted negotiations Mr. Hariri announced a 30-member unity government on 10 November. It comprised 15 members from his 14 March Coalition, 10 from the opposition (including two Hezbollah members) and five members appointed by the President. Mr. Hariri's government won the vote of confidence on 10 December with 122 votes, although many members of the 14 March Coalition raised concern over the inclusion of a clause affirming Hezbollah's right to bear arms in the new government's policy statement.

Note:

In March 2009, the National Assembly voted to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 but rejected a proposal to introduce a quota for women in parliament. The new voting age will apply to elections taking place after 2010.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	3,258,573	
Voters	1,758,901	53.98 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	21,113	
Valid votes	1,737,788	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
14 March Coalition	71
8 March Coalition	57
Total	128

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	124	
Women	4	3.13 %
Total	128	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats	
Education profession	39	
Legal profession	28	
Physician, dentist	20	
Architect, surveyor, engineer	16	
Finance, management or business	14	
Journalism, broadcasting, media	6	
Military/police officers	5	
Total	128	

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	3
31 to 40 years	9
41 to 50 years	19
51 to 60 years	49
61 to 70 years	32
Over 70 years	16
Total	128

LIECHTENSTEIN

Diet

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Landtag / Diet
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	25 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	8 February 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Diet on the normal expiry of the members' term of office

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

2 multi-member (15 seats for Oberland and 10 seats for Unterland) constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation, using the simple electoral quotient with remaining seats distributed on the basis of greatest remainders.

In order to qualify for representation in the Landtag, a party must obtain 8% of the votes cast in the whole country. When division by the relevant quotient does not result in as many elected Deputies as there are seats to be filled in the constituency concerned, there takes place a second-stage division of "supplementary votes" among those parties which have met the 8% requirement. Each list contains, as far as possible, as many candidates as there are seats to be filled. A vote cast for a candidate is also counted as a vote cast for his party. The seats won by each list are allotted to those of its members who have received the most votes.

Vacancies between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate of the party list concerned. A by-election is held in the event that this rule cannot be applied.

Voting is compulsory and those failing to do so are liable to a fine of up to SFr. 20.- if they do not have a valid excuse (travel abroad, sickness, etc.).

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Liechtenstein citizenship
- residence in the country for a minimum of one month prior to the elections

Disqualifications: deprivation of voting right by virtue of law or pursuant to a final court decision, guardianship or trusteeship, imprisonment, commitment by a public authority to a closed institution

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- 18 years
- Liechtenstein citizenship

▶ **Incompatibilities**

Incompatibilities related to occupations

- Ministers of State
- Holders of judicial offices (Judges)
- Clergymen

The incompatibilities above are valid during the term of office

Other incompatibilities

- Insanity/mental illness
- Guardianship/ward
- Holders of temporary entry permits
- undocumented immigrants

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by 30 electors from the same constituency required

Background and Outcome of the Elections

At stake in the February 2009 elections were all 25 seats in the Diet, the unicameral parliament of the principality of 35,000 inhabitants.

In the previous elections held in March 2005, Prime Minister Otmar Hasler's Progressive Citizens Party (FBP) won 12 of the 25 seats. The Patriotic Union (VU) won ten while the Free List (FL) took three. The FBP and the VU subsequently formed a centre-right coalition government, led by Mr. Hasler. Mr. Klaus Tschütscher (VU) became Deputy Prime Minister.

In the run-up to the 2009 elections, a spate of tax-evasion scandals erupted involving wealthy foreigners with bank accounts in Liechtenstein.

Liechtenstein had introduced anti-money-laundering legislation and a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with the United States entered into force in 2003. However, in 2008, a massive investigation in Germany revealed that some 1,000 Germans holding bank accounts in Liechtenstein had evaded taxes worth over US\$1 billion. The scandal spread as German authorities released data on non-Germans who had also evaded taxes. Germany called for greater transparency of Liechtenstein's tax system and banking sector while Liechtenstein's Government insisted that the privacy of bank customers should be protected.

During the election campaign, the main political parties focused on taxes and the economy.

The FBP promised to work towards a more transparent tax system. Prime Minister Hasler said the government would accept international standards on exchanging tax information on condition that the European Union (EU) negotiated agreements on double taxation. VU leader Tschütscher promised to revise the 2009 budget with a view to passing fiscal legislation compatible with EU norms. He also promised to undertake measures to tackle recession and protect jobs.

The FL, led by Ms. Andrea Matt, reiterated the need to make changes in the banking sector, notably banking secrecy laws. For the first time since its inception in 1985, the FL said it was willing to serve in the new government. The FBP and the VU did not exclude the possibility of forming a coalition government together. However, both parties stated that they would not form a coalition with the FL.

62 candidates, including 18 women, contested seats: 25 each from the FBP and the VU and 12 from the FL.

With voting being compulsory, turnout has been traditionally high in Liechtenstein. In 2009, 84.63 per cent of the 18,000 registered electors cast their ballots. Over 80 per cent of voters opted for a postal vote, up from 50 per cent in the 2005 elections.

The final results gave 13 seats to the VU and 11 to the FBP. The FL took one seat. Six women were elected, the same number as in 2005.

Mr. Hasler conceded defeat and announced that he would step down as Prime Minister.

On 18 March, the newly elected Diet held its first session and elected Mr. Arthur Brunhart (VU) as its new Speaker. With the agreement of the Diet, Prince Hans-Adam II appointed Mr. Tschütscher as the new Prime Minister on 25 March. The latter subsequently formed a coalition government comprising the VU and the FBP.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	18,493	
Voters	15,650	84.63 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Candi- dates	% votes	Seats	Gain/ Loss	Number of women
Patriotic Union (VU)	25	47.50	13	3	4
Progressive Citizens' Party (FBP)	25	43.50	11	-1	2
Free List (FL)	12	8.90	1	-2	0
Total	62		25		6

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	19	
Women	6	24.00 %
Total	25	

▶ Distribution of seats according to profession

	Seats
Entrepreneur	6
Legal profession	4
Civil service and local authority administration	3
Finance, management or business	3
Education profession	2
Physician, dentist	2
Home-maker, care-taker	2
Journalism, broadcasting, media	1
IT/technology	1
Economist	1
Total	25

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

31 to 40 years	6
41 to 50 years	7
51 to 60 years	9
61 to 70 years	3
Total	25

LUXEMBOURG

Chamber of Deputies

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Chambre des Députés / Chamber of Deputies
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	60 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	7 June 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Chamber of Deputies on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

4 multi-member (23 seats for the South, 21 for the Center, 9 for the North and 7 for the East) constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list proportional representation system, with seats allotted according to the Hagenbach-Bishoff method. Political groups submit lists of candidates, whose number may not exceed the number of seats to be filled in the district.

- Electors may cast a preferential vote or split their vote between different lists. Accordingly, they can either vote for a list (in which case the latter is deemed to have received a number of votes equal to the number the elector was entitled to cast) or for a particular name on any list (in which case their votes may not exceed the number of Deputies to be elected in the district concerned). Each party-list obtains as many seats as its total number of (individual candidates and list) votes encompasses the applicable quotient. Remaining seats are allotted to parties with the highest average after the second count.

- Vacancies between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidates i.e., those of the same party-list who received the highest number of votes short of being elected.

- Voting is compulsory for citizens residing in the country until the age of 75. Only citizens over 75 years old and those residing abroad are allowed to vote by post. Failure to vote is punishable by a fine of between 100 and 250 euros. In case of repeated abstention over a

period of five years, the fine can increase to between 500 and 1,000 euros and citizens risk having their names removed from the voters' roll.

- Elections are held every five years on the first Sunday of June. If the date coincides with Pentecost, they are held on the last Sunday of May. Parliamentary elections must be held on the same day as those to the European Parliament if they are due in June of the same year.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Luxembourg citizenship;
 - Age: at least 18 years on the day of the election;
 - Enjoyment of full civil and political rights; and
 - Residency in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
- Disqualifications: imprisonment, guardianship

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
 - Luxembourg citizenship
 - Age: at least 18 years on election day
 - Residency in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- Disqualifications:
- Persons convicted of crimes
 - Persons deprived of civil and political rights
 - Persons under guardianship.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- membership of the Government, Council of State or Audit office
- judge
- district commissioner
- receiver or accountant of the State
- members of clergy
- teacher of primary education
- civil servant or employee of the State
- career member of the armed forces on active duty

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- each candidate must be supported by at least 25 electors of the constituency. Any single candidature is considered as a list in itself.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The June 2009 parliamentary elections were held concurrently with those to the European Parliament (EP).

In the previous elections held in June 2004, the Christian Social Party (PCS/CSV) of Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker took 24 of the 60 seats at stake. Following the elections, the PCS/CSV formed a coalition government with the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party (POSL/LSAP), which took 14 seats. Other parties which won parliamentary representation were the Democratic Party (PD/DP, ten seats), the Greens (DEI GRÉNG, seven seats) and the Action Committee for Democracy and Justice (five seats).

The 2009 elections were the first to be held following a constitutional amendment curtailing the powers of the country's monarch, the Grand Duke, in favour of parliament. In February 2008, the Chamber of Deputies, in its first reading, approved a bill legalizing euthanasia. In April 2008, Grand Duke Henri announced that he would not sign it into law for "reasons of conscience". Prime Minister Juncker, who himself opposed the bill, proposed a constitutional amendment whereby bills would no longer require the Grand Duke's approval before passing into law. He argued that the Grand Duke should not overrule decisions made by the parliament. In December, the Chamber of Deputies approved the amendment and passed the bill on euthanasia, which was promulgated in March 2009.

In all, 452 candidates, including 154 women, from eight parties, contested the 2009 elections. Prime Minister Juncker, in power since 1995, was seeking a fourth term under the PCS/CSV. The POSL/LSAP was led by Deputy Prime Minister Jean Asselborn. Other major parties in the race included the PD/DP, led by Mr. Claude Meisch and the Greens (DEI GRÉNG), co-led by Ms. Tilly Metz and Mr. Carlo de Toffoli. The Action Committee for Democracy and Justice, which renamed itself the Alternative Democratic Reform Party (ADR) in April 2006, was running under the leadership of Mr. Roby Mehlen.

Since 2005, Mr. Juncker - the longest serving head of government in the European Union (EU) - had also been head of Eurogroup, an informal discussion body of economy and finance ministers of the euro zone and the European Central Bank. He announced that he would resign as Finance Minister of Luxembourg after the 2009 elections, although he would remain the head of Eurogroup until his current term ends in December 2010.

The elections were held against the backdrop of the recent global financial crisis, which renewed criticism over Luxembourg's banking secrecy. Prime Minister Juncker refrained from debating the issue publicly during the election campaign. Instead, he ran on his government's record, including a sevenfold increase in the research budget since 2000. He argued that the

country should not focus only on the financial sector to recover from the crisis. He underscored the need to diversify economic activities for future generations.

The POSL/LSAP's campaign focused on employment, the economy and the environment. Deputy Prime Minister Asselborn insisted that the role of the State should be reinforced amid the economic crisis. He pledged to reform the education system and introduce new technology to modernize the economy so that Luxembourgers would be "winners" after the economic crisis. He added that his party would work to continue to reduce CO² emissions and develop renewable energy technologies.

The PD/DP pledged to bring about new solutions to the economic crisis in cooperation with the EU. It argued that the international financial system no longer corresponded to the needs of the globalized economy.

The ADR considers itself as the voice of citizens and therefore pledged to fight social injustice and dysfunctional State institutions. It continued to call for all public decisions to be put to a referendum, an idea which Prime Minister Juncker vehemently rejected.

On 7 June, 90.93 per cent of 223,000 eligible voters turned out at the polls.

The PCS/CSV won 26 seats, two more than in the 2004 elections, while the POSL/LSAP took 13, losing one. The PD/DP took nine, followed by the Greens and the ADR, which took seven and four seats respectively. Fifteen women were elected.

On 8 July, the newly elected Chamber of Deputies held its first session. On 28 July, it elected Mr. Laurent Mosar (PCS/CSV) as its new Speaker.

In the meantime, on 20 July, the PCS/CSV and the POSL/LSAP agreed to form a new coalition government under Mr. Juncker's leadership. The new Government was sworn in on 23 July.

Election results and statistics**▶ Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	223,842	
Voters	203,535	90.93 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	13,322	
Valid votes	190,213	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats	Number of women
Christian Social Party (PCS/CSV)	532,666	38.04	26	7
Socialist Workers' Party (POSL/LSAP)	695,830	21.56	13	4
Democrat Party (PD/DP)	432,820	14.98	9	2
Greens (DEI GRÉNG)	347,388	11.71	7	1
Alternative Democratic Reform Party (ADR)	232,744	8.13	4	1
The Left (DÉI LÉNK)	109,184		1	0
Total			60	15

Note:

Each voter may cast as many votes as the number of deputies elected from each constituency. Thus the total number of votes (and consequently, that won by each party) exceeds the number of registered voters.

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	45	
Women	15	25.00 %
Total	60	

Note:

Fifteen women were elected in the June 2009 elections. Some members resigned to take up their ministerial post in the new government formed in July 2009, reducing the number of women to 12.

MALAWI

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	National Assembly / -
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	193 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	19 May 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

193 single-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

First past the post system.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through a by-election.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Malawian citizenship (or non-citizens who have been ordinarily resident in Malawi for seven years)

- ordinary residence in a constituency or birth, employment or business there

- Malawians living abroad cannot vote.

Disqualifications: mental incompetence, death sentence

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 21 years

- Malawian citizenship

- ability to speak and read the English language well enough to take an active part in the proceedings of Parliament

Ineligibility: allegiance to a foreign State, conviction for a crime

involving dishonesty or moral turpitude, undischarged bankruptcy

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- civil servants
- members of the armed forces or police

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 20 March 2009, President Ngwazi Bingu wa Mutharika dissolved the National Assembly in view of elections set for 19 May.

In the previous elections held in May 2004 in parallel with presidential elections, the Malawi Congress Party (MCP), which had led Malawi to independence from Britain in 1964, won 56 of the 193 seats at stake. The United Democratic Front (UDF) of the then President Bakili Muluzi came in second with 49 seats. The opposition Mgwirizano Coalition took 25. The remainder went to small parties and 39 independent candidates. In the presidential elections, Mr. Mutharika (UDF) was elected President, with his running mate, Mr. Cassim Chilumpha, as Vice-President.

The country experienced political turmoil following the 2004 elections. In February 2005, President Mutharika resigned from the UDF, accusing the party and former president Muluzi of opposing his anti-corruption campaign. He subsequently formed the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). The UDF launched an unsuccessful attempt to have Mr. Mutharika impeached, arguing that he had used public funds to promote his new party. In February 2006, President Mutharika sacked Vice-President Chilumpha. Two months later, the latter was arrested on treason charges. In July 2006, former president Muluzi was arrested on fraud and corruption charges but was released on bail.

In all, 1,151 candidates were vying for seats in the National Assembly in the 2009 elections. The DPP, which formed an electoral alliance with the People's Progressive Movement (PPM), supported Mr. Mutharika as its presidential candidate. The MCP and the UDF formed a coalition and backed Mr. John Tembo (MCP), whom had been defeated in the 2004 presidential race. Former president Muluzi (UDF), who had served the maximum two terms, unsuccessfully petitioned the Constitutional Court to lift the term limit, arguing that the ban breached his political rights. Ms. Loveness Gondwe of the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC), formed in March 2008, was the country's first female presidential candidate.

Agriculture, food security, employment and corruption figured prominently in the election campaign. Nearly 65 per cent of the country's 13.1 million people live on less than a dollar per day. Eighty-five per cent of Malawians rely on agriculture for their livelihood, and agriculture accounts for 70 per cent of the country's trade revenue.

The DPP promised to continue to provide subsidized fertilizer to poor farmers, while the MCP-UDF coalition promised to extend the sale of subsidized fertilizer to all farmers. The DPP pledged to introduce more foreign investment to develop the country, after an Australian company started uranium mining in northern Malawi in April 2009. The MCP-UDF coalition promised to prioritize local investment projects in agriculture, education and health in order to eradicate poverty.

The MCP-UDF accused the DPP of using an on-going anti-corruption campaign to persecute its political opponents. The UDF further accused the DPP of trying to revert to a one-party system. The NARC promised to improve the conditions of workers, youth and women. It also vowed to review pension funds and double teachers' salaries.

Prior to the 2009 elections, the electoral commission admitted that there had been irregularities in the voters' list and pledged to correct them before polling day.

Turnout was reportedly high among the 5.9 million registered voters. Some voters were turned away from polling stations because their names were not on the voters' list. The Electoral Commission rectified the list and urged citizens who had encountered such problems to go back to the polling station.

The DPP came in first with 113 seats. The MCP came in second with 27 seats, while the UDF took 17. Three small parties won one seat each while 33 seats went to independent candidates. 41 women were elected.

In the presidential elections, Mr. Mutharika was re-elected with 50.7 per cent of the votes. On 22 May, he was sworn in for a second term. His deputy, Ms. Joyce Banda, became the first female Vice-President in Malawi's history.

On 1 June, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session. 29 independents sat with the government side in parliament while three sat with

the opposition. On 22 June, the National Assembly elected Mr. Henry Chimunthu Banda (DPP) as its Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	5,900,000
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▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats	Number of women
Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)	113	31
Malawi Congress Party (MCP)	27	3
United Democratic Front (UDF)	17	1
Alliance for Democracy (AFORD)	1	0
Malawi Forum for Unity and Development (MAFUNDE)	1	0
Maravi People's Party (MPP)	1	0
Independents	33	6
Total	193	41

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	152	
Women	41	21.24 %
Total	193	

MALDIVES

People's Majlis

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Majlis / People's Majlis
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	77 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	9 May 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in the People's Majlis.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

77 single-member constituencies

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

First-past-the-post system.

Voters vote for only one candidate.

Vacancies between legislatures are filled in by-elections. No by-elections are to be scheduled, however, within six months of general elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- Citizenship of the Maldives

- Age: 18 years or over

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- Citizenship of the Maldives

(Persons who acquired Maldivian citizenship five years prior to the election date and who are domiciled in the Maldives may contest the elections)

- Age: 18 years or over

- Sunni Muslim

- Persons of sound mind

Disqualifications:

- Judges

- Persons holding another citizenship
 - Persons convicted of a criminal offense and serving a sentence of more than 12 months (this disqualification is valid during the term of the sentence and for three years thereafter)
 - Persons not discharged from bankruptcy
- ▶ **Incompatibilities**
- Ministers of State
 - Members of the Electoral Commission
 - Civil servants
 - Executive of a public corporation
 - Members of the armed forces
 - Members of the police forces
 - Holders of any other public posts
- ▶ **Candidacy requirements**
- Candidates can be put forward by a political party or be independent.
 - Independent candidates must be supported by at least 50 eligible voters in the constituency in which they are running.
 - Deposit of 5,000 rufiyaa (about US\$ 400)

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The 2009 elections were the first multi-party parliamentary elections in the country. They were also the first to be held under the new President, Mohamed Nasheed, whose election in October 2008 put an end to President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom's 30 years in power. At stake were 77 seats in the new People's Majlis, all directly elected; the previous 50-member People's Majlis had included eight presidential appointees.

The previous parliamentary elections were originally called for December 2004, when political parties were still banned in the country. They were postponed to 22 January 2005 after the tsunami of December 2004. Although the outgoing legislature unanimously adopted a resolution on 2 January 2005 allowing political parties to seek recognition and contest elections, the multi-party provision was not applied to the 2005 elections. Candidates' political beliefs were nevertheless widely known. The opposition Maldives Democratic Party (MDP), operating in exile from Sri Lanka, claimed it had won 18 of the 42 directly elected seats. The government insisted that only eight seats had gone to pro-MDP members and that the governmental camp had won at least 30 seats.

Prior to the 2005 elections, in October 2004, the People's Special Majlis (Constituent Assembly) was established to write a new constitution by November 2007. After those elections, then President Gayoom reiterated his plans to introduce democracy within one year by establishing the office of prime minister, a supreme court and a directly elected president. In March 2006, he launched a "Roadmap for the Reform Agenda" to implement these reforms.

Twelve political parties had been established since 2005. They included the Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP) of then President Gayoom, the People's Alliance (PA) led by his half-brother, Mr. Abdullah Yamin, and the MDP.

In July 2007, President Gayoom called the first-ever referendum for August to decide on the country's future political system. His DRP campaigned for a presidential system, while the MDP favoured a parliamentary system. In the end, voters opted for the presidential system.

In June 2008, the People's Special Majlis adopted a new constitution introducing a two-term limit for the president. However, it decided not to apply the limit to President Gayoom, arguing that the country was to have a totally new constitution and that the presidential terms served under the previous constitutions should not be counted.

In August 2008, President Gayoom ratified the new Constitution, paving the way for the country's first multi-party presidential elections. In the run-offs held in late October, he was defeated by Mr. Nasheed (MDP), who was supported by other opposition parties. Mr. Nasheed had been jailed 13 times for anti-government activities and had lived in exile in Britain and Sri Lanka.

Under the new Constitution, parliamentary elections were due before 15 February 2009. They were postponed, however, because of difficulties in passing electoral legislation to determine the statutory number of members of the new legislature and constituencies. After much heated debate, the People's Majlis finally enacted the Parliamentary Constituencies Bill and the Parliamentary Election Bill on 10 February. The bills were ratified the following day by President Nasheed, paving the way for elections to the new 77-member People's Majlis. The Election Commission subsequently set the election day for 9 May.

A total of 465 candidates - 211 from 11 political parties and 254 independents - were vying for seats in the People's Majlis. The 2009 elections

saw a duel between the MDP and the DRP. The latter formed an electoral alliance with the PA.

President Nasheed urged citizens to vote for the MDP and enable his government to fulfill its five pledges: to provide affordable housing and transportation, lower the cost of living, ensure health care and tackle the drug problem. He promised to seek foreign investments of at least US\$ 500 million to finance the pledges. The MDP called on voters not to support DRP candidates, alleging that they were corrupt.

DRP leader Gayoom called on voters to support the party for the sake of the country and religion. He argued that the DRP would win the most seats in the new legislature since 40 per cent of citizens had voted for him in the first round of the 2008 presidential elections. PA leader Yamin urged voters to support the DRP and the PA on the grounds that the DRP was the only party which had ever worked for the benefit of the public. Both parties pledged to hold the MDP government accountable.

Mr. Yamin challenged the government's its economic policy and the budget deficit. President Nasheed rebutted that his government had inherited a massive budget deficit from the Gayoom administration. He nevertheless admitted that the country's economy had deteriorated in the wake of the global economic crisis and pledged to find solutions for its economic and fiscal woes.

The other parties in the race argued that an MDP majority in parliament would confer undue power on one party, which, they said, would be a setback for the Maldives' young multi-party democracy.

78.87 per cent of the 209,000 registered voters turned out at the polls.

The voting took place in relative peace, although sporadic confrontations and clashes were reported between voter groups. Polling was initially scheduled to end at 8 p.m. but was extended to 1 a.m. in several polling stations which had opened late because of various problems.

Logistical problems delayed the announcement of the election results. Some 500 protesters demonstrated in front of the Election Commission, arguing that it was trying to alter the results. The Commission denied the allegation.

The Commonwealth observers said that the elections were

"well-conducted".

The final results gave the DRP and the PA 28 and seven seats respectively, three short of a parliamentary majority. The MDP became the second largest party, winning 26 seats. The Dhivehi Qaumee Party (DQP) and the Republican Party (RP) took two seats and one seat respectively. The remaining 13 seats went to independent candidates.

The newly elected People's Majlis held its first session on 28 May and elected Mr. Abdulla Shahid (DRP) as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	209,197	
Voters	164,996	78.87 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	1,772	
Valid votes	163,224	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP)	28
Maldives Democratic Party (MDP)	26
People's Alliance (PA)	7
Dhivehi Qaumee Party (DQP)	2
Republican Party ('Jumhoory', RP)	1
Independents	13
Total	77

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	72	
Women	5	6.49 %
Total	77	

MEXICO

Chamber of Deputies

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congreso de la Unión / Congress of the Union
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Cámara de Diputados / Chamber of Deputies
Number of members	500 directly elected
Term of House	3 years
Date of elections	5 July 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Chamber of Deputies on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 300 single-member constituencies
- one multi-member nationwide constituency for remaining 200 Deputies
- there is 1 Deputy for every 250,000 citizens

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

- First past the post system for 300 Deputies
- proportional representation (simple quotient plus greatest remainder formula) from regional party lists for remaining 200. Latter seats apportioned on basis of national vote won by each party, with proviso that majority party cannot hold more than 300 seats (or 315 with more than 60% of popular vote) overall; certain conditions to benefit from this allocation.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections in the absence of substitute members, except in the case of proportional representation-elected Deputies, who are replaced by the "next-in-line" candidate of the same party list.

Voting is compulsory (no sanctions).

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Mexican citizenship
- honest means of livelihood

Disqualifications: criminal conviction, imprisonment, fugitive from justice,

sentence imposing suspension

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 21 years
- Mexican citizenship
- full possession of political rights
- six months' residence in constituency

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- religious ministers
- members of the armed forces on active duty
- police officers of commanding rank (within district)
- certain public officials (including Governors)
- judges
- connection with Federal Electoral Institute

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidatures submitted by duly registered political parties

Background and Outcome of the Elections

At stake in the July 2009 elections were 500 seats in the Chamber of Deputies.

In the previous elections held in July 2006 in parallel with the elections to the Senate and the presidency, the National Action Party (PAN) won 206 seats in the Chamber of Deputies. The Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) and Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) took 126 and 104 seats respectively. Five other parties won less than 20 seats each. Mr. Felipe Calderon (PAN) won the presidential elections, pledging to tackle crime.

Upon assuming office in December 2006, President Calderon launched a war on drug gangs by deploying thousands of troops. However, drug-related violence remained rampant, killing over 6,000 people in 2008 and the first half of 2009. The global economic crisis that originated in the United States severely affected Mexico. Although President Calderon responded by implementing tax cuts for business and investing in infrastructure projects, Mexico's economy was expected to shrink by 5.5 per cent in 2009.

In April 2009, the country was hit by an outbreak of swine flu (H1N1 influenza). By the end of June, it had killed over 100 people and affected some 10,000

people. Although the election campaign officially started on 3 May, most parties initially refrained from holding rallies due to the epidemic. In the run-up to the polls, rallies were held in accordance with government health guidelines, requiring participants to stay at least seven feet away from each other.

In the 2009 elections, the PAN was once again challenged by the PRI. The latter had dominated the country's presidency from 1929 until the election of Mr. Vicente Fox (PAN) in 2000. PRI's new leader, Ms. Beatriz Elena Paredes Rangel, emphasized that the party had learned from its errors, referring to past corruption problems. The PRI used a slogan "proven experience, new attitude", recalling over seven decades of the party's leadership. It pledged to provide new economic policies to tackle the economic crisis.

President Calderon pledged to continue to tackle crime. According to the government, crime-related deaths dropped by 26 per cent in the first trimester of 2009. He urged voters' to allow the PAN to continue to work for economic growth, job creation and public safety.

The PRD led by Mr. Jesús Ortega also vowed to tackle organized crime. However, it was reportedly losing ground due to internal splits.

Polling took place without major incidents in most areas, except in the state of Guerrero where 11 people, including a PRD town councillor and his family, were killed.

Turnout was reportedly low among the 78 million registered voters.

The PRI won a decisive victory securing 237 seats, up from 104. The PAN came in second with 143 seats, losing 63. The PRD took 71 seats, losing 55. Of all the eight parties represented in the outgoing Chamber, only the Social Democratic and Peasant Alternative Party (ALT) failed to win seats. 141 women were elected.

On 29 August, the newly elected Chamber of Deputies held its first session and elected Mr. Francisco Ramírez Acuña (PAN) as its new Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	78,000,000
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► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Majority seats	Proportional seats	Seats	Number of women
Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)	184	53	237	53
National Action Party (PAN)	70	73	143	48
Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD)	39	32	71	21
Green Party of Mexico (PVEM)	4	17	21	9
Labour Party (PT)	3	10	13	4
New Alliance Party (NA)	0	9	9	4
Convergence Party (CONV)	0	6	6	2
Total	300	200	500	141

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	359	
Women	141	28.20 %
Total	500	

MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF)

Congress

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Congress / -
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	14 directly elected
Term of House	2 years (except 4 "at large" Senators - one for each of the four States of Micronesia - elected for 4 years)

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for 10 single-member constituency seats in the Congress on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

- 10 single-member constituencies
- 4 states (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae) for "at-large" Senators

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

- First past the post system in single-member constituencies
- proportional representation for the four "at-large" Senators

The federal President and Vice-President are elected by the Congress from among the four Senators-at-large; the offices rotate among the four states.

Vacancies arising between general elections are normally filled through by-elections, except in the case of an unexpired term of less than one year, when appointment takes place.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years old
 - Micronesian citizenship
 - minimum period of local residence
- Disqualifications: criminal conviction, insanity

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 30 years old
- Micronesian citizenship for a minimum of 15 years

- residence in state from which elected for at least five years
- ineligibility: conviction for felony by a state or national government court

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- any other public office or employment
- any activity which conflicts with proper discharge of legislative duties

Background and Outcome of the Elections

At stake in the March 2009 elections were ten seats in the 14-member Congress. These seats are renewed every two years while the remaining four "at large seats" are renewed every four years. "At large" members are eligible to run for the post of President and Vice-President.

Following the previous elections held in March 2007 for all the seats in the Congress, Mr. Isaac V. Figir was re-elected as Speaker, while Mr. Manny Mori was elected as the country's new President.

Since there are no political parties in Micronesia, all 21 candidates for the ten seats in contention ran as independents. As was the case in all previous elections, no women ran. Although the Speaker had proposed a constitutional bill to introduce four "at large" seats reserved for women, it was not passed by the Congress before the 2009 elections.

At the invitation of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Asia Pacific Democracy Partnership (APDP) sent an 18-member observer mission to monitor the polls. The observers noted some irregularities and procedural inconsistencies, which were reported to the country's election officials.

On 16 March, the National Election Director certified the election results of nine of the ten new members. The results for the tenth seat were confirmed on 24 March after a recount.

The ten members joined the four "at large" members to hold the first session of Congress on 11 May 2009, at which Mr. Figir was re-elected as Speaker.

Election results and statistics**► Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	10	
Women	0	0.00 %
Total	10	

MONTENEGRO

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Skupstina / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	81 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	29 March 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in Parliament following the early dissolution of Parliament on 26 January 2009. The elections had previously taken place on 10 September 2006.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- one nationwide constituency of 76 seats
- one special constituency of five seats for the Albanian community

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Closed party list systems:

Political parties submit a single election list (closed list), which is valid in both the nationwide and special constituencies.

Seats are attributed according to the highest average system, using the d'Hondt method. A threshold of 3 per cent of the total votes is required to win a seat. If a list does not reach the threshold in one constituency, but does in the other, the votes received in the first constituency will be added to those in the other constituency.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through "next-in-line" candidate of the same party.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- citizenship of Montenegro (including naturalized citizens)
- age: at least 18 years old on election day
- residence in the country at least 24 months prior to election

Disqualifications: insanity/mental illness, undocumented immigrants

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- citizenship of Montenegro (including naturalized citizens)
- age: at least 18 years old on election day
- residence in the country at least 24 months prior to election

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Head of State
- ministers of State
- officials and other members of Government
- holders of judicial offices (judges)
- President and members of Constitutional Court
- Government advisors
- executives and members of the Electoral Commission

The incompatibilities above are valid during the term of office.

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- nomination by at least 1% of voters
- candidature must be submitted at least 25 days prior to elections
- candidature can be submitted by individuals
- candidature can be submitted by political parties
- there is no mandatory deposit

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 26 January 2009, Parliament approved the Government's proposal to dissolve parliament. The following day, President Filip Vujanovic called elections for 29 March, 18 months earlier than they were constitutionally due.

In the previous elections held in September 2006, three months after Montenegro gained independence from the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, the Coalition for a European Montenegro (DPS-SDP) led by Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic won 41 seats in the 81-member Parliament. The Coalition comprised the Prime Minister's Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) and the Social Democratic Party (SDP). The Serb List - comprising the Serb People's Party (SNS), the Serbian Radical Party (SRS), the Democratic Party of Unity (DSJ) and the People's Socialist Party (NSS) - took 12 seats. The SNP-NS-DSS Coalition - comprising the Socialist People's Party (SNP), the People's Party (NS) and the Democratic Serb Party (DSS) - won 11 seats, as did the Movement for Change (which had opposed the country's independence). The remainder went to small parties.

A country of 650,000 inhabitants, Montenegro saw a rise in gross domestic product (GDP) of 10.7 per cent in 2007 and 8 per cent in 2008, mainly thanks to the tourism sector. It applied for membership of the European Union (EU) in December 2008. That same month, the International Monetary Fund said the country's GDP growth would drop to two per cent in 2009 and 2010.

Although the major political parties had agreed that elections would be called in late 2009, in January 2009 Prime Minister Djukanovic proposed early elections on the grounds that the country needed a new government and parliament to implement a series of reforms relating to its bid for EU membership. Vice Premier Igor Luksic said the accession process should be managed by a government and parliament with a full four-year term. Opposition parties such as the SNP, the NSS and the Movement for Change criticized the decision to call early elections, arguing that the ruling coalition wanted to secure re-election before the global economic crisis struck the country. The Prime Minister underscored that his government was taking measures to spare the country from the worst consequences of the crisis.

Six coalitions and eight parties contested the 2009 elections.

Prime Minister Djukanovic again led the Coalition for a European Montenegro (DPS-SDP). He was seeking a sixth term as prime minister (including one term served before the country's independence). He pledged to preserve economic stability and urged voters to opt for economic prosperity and a European future. He promised more investment in infrastructure such as a north-south highway and in the tourism and energy sectors. President Filip Vujanovic (DPS) urged voters to support projects that would help the country "overcome the consequences of the economic crisis".

The opposition forces remained fragmented. The NS of Mr. Predrag Popovic and the DSS led by Mr. Ranko Kadic announced that they would contest the elections as a NS-DSS-Populist Coalition, separately from the SNP. The SNP, a pro-EU party led by Mr. Srdan Milic, announced that it would run on its own instead of forming an electoral coalition with the Movement for Change. The SNP promised to provide welfare benefits for the most vulnerable citizens. Mr. Nebojsa Medojevic's Movement for Change argued that renewing the mandate of the ruling DPS-SDP would increase the risk of corruption. Dissidents of the Movement for Change formed the Democratic Centre (DC) under the leadership of Mr. Goran Batricevic. The DC subsequently formed a coalition with the Liberal Party (which had been in coalition with the Bosniak

Party in the 2006 elections). The SNS and the NSS formed New Serb Democracy (NOVA) under the leadership of Mr. Andrija Mandić. The NOVA focused on the economy rather than a pro-Serbian agenda, promising to provide remedies to the country's import-dependent economy.

The 2009 election campaign was reportedly calm, unlike in previous elections. The local media attributed this to voter apathy. Pre-election polls indicated that the ruling DPS-SDP would secure a majority of the votes.

On 29 March, 66.19 per cent of nearly 500,000 registered voters turned out at the polls.

Over 200 international observers monitored the polls. The OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe), which led an international election observation mission, concluded that the vote had "met almost all international commitments and standards", but underscored the "need for further democratic development", stating that "lack of public confidence remained a key challenge".

The Coalition for a European Montenegro (DPS-SDP) won 48 seats, while the SNP took 16. The NOVA won eight seats, followed by the Movement for Change with five seats. The remainder went to small parties.

On 23 April, the newly elected Parliament held its first session. On 6 May it re-elected Mr. Ranko Krivokapić (SDP) as its Speaker.

On 7 May, President Filip Vujanović appointed Mr. Djukanović as Prime Minister. On 11 June, the parliament endorsed Mr. Djukanović's new government, comprising the DPS-SDP and the Democratic Union of Albanians, which took one seat.

Election results and statistics

► Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	498,305	
Voters	329,819	66.19 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	5,827	
Valid votes	323,992	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Votes	Seats
Coalition for a European Montenegro (DPS-SDP)	168,290	48
Socialist People's Party (SNP)	54,547	16
New Serb Democracy (NOVA)	29,883	8
Movement for Change	19,546	5
Albanian Coalition - Perspective		1
Coalition of the Democratic League of Albanians (LDSh) and Albanian Alternative (AA)		1
Democratic Union of Albanians		1
New Democratic Power (FORCA)		1
Total		81

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	72	
Women	9	11.11 %
Total	81	

MOZAMBIQUE

Assembly of the Republic

Parliament name	Assembleia da Republica / Assembly of the
(generic / translated)	Republic
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	250 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	28 October 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Early elections were held for all seats in the Assembly of the Republic. Elections had previously taken place in December 2004.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 11 multi-member constituencies (12 to 50 representatives for each, based on population), corresponding to the country's provinces
- 2 single-member constituencies, corresponding to the Mozambican communities in the countries of Europe and Africa respectively.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list proportional representation system according to d'Hondt method; 5% vote threshold for parties to gain parliamentary representation.

Vacancies which arise between general elections are filled by substitutes chosen alongside titular members.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years
- Mozambican citizenship

Disqualifications: legal deprivation (of right), mental deficiency or insanity, imprisonment or detention

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 18 years
- Mozambican citizenship

Ineligibility: persons sentenced to imprisonment for certain offences

committed as public servants, habitual offenders.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- government employment
- paid service for foreign State or international organization
- affiliation with National Electoral Commission
- judges
- civil servants
- members of the armed forces
- career diplomats

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- membership of political party or coalition of parties

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 20 April 2009, President Armando Guebuza issued a decree setting the date for parliamentary and presidential elections for 28 October. The 2009 elections were the fourth to be held since the end of the country's civil war in 1992.

The ruling Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) has run the country since Mozambique gained independence from Portugal in 1975. It has won all multi-party elections - both parliamentary and presidential - since 1994. In the 2004 elections it won 160 out of the 250 parliamentary seats. The Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO), a former rebel group against whom the FRELIMO-led government had fought a 15-year civil war, took 90 seats. In the 2004 presidential elections, Mr. Guebuza, a wealthy businessman backed by outgoing President Joachim Chisano beat long-time RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakama.

Prior to the 2009 elections, RENAMO was reportedly losing ground due to an internal split. In March 2009, its dissidents formed the Democratic Movement of Mozambique (MDM) under the leadership of Mr. Daviz Simango. The MDM backed Mr. Simango, the mayor of Beira, the country's second largest city, as its presidential candidate. He is the son of a former FRELIMO Vice-President, Mr. Uria Simango, who was assassinated in the late 1970s.

Once again, FRELIMO and RENAMO respectively endorsed Mr. Guebuza and Mr. Dhlakama for the presidency. Mr. Dhlakama, contesting the presidential elections for the fourth time, said that he would not run for president again if he lost the 2009 elections.

In June, Mr. Simango survived an apparent assassination attempt that the police blamed on Mr. Dhlakama's bodyguards. Mr. Dhlakama and his party dismissed the allegations. However, the MDM and RENAMO have traded accusations ever since.

Nearly 30 parties applied to run for the parliamentary elections but the National Elections Commission (CNE) registered only 17 parties and two coalitions due to alleged registration irregularities. The CNE also rejected many MDM candidates for similar reasons. MDM leader Simango insisted that the nomination papers of rejected MDM candidates had been duly stamped by the CNE and thus there could not have been any irregularities. However, the CNE did not review its decision. Consequently, the MDM fielded candidates in only four of the 11 multi-member constituencies, while FRELIMO and RENAMO fielded candidates in all the constituencies.

FRELIMO, RENAMO and the MDM all campaigned on a similar platform, pledging to attract more foreign investment, develop the rural economy and fight corruption. They presented manifestos of varying lengths, ranging from a mere 350 words (RENAMO) to a 24-page tabloid (MDM) to a small book (FRELIMO).

President Guebuza pledged to reinforce national unity and consolidate peace. FRELIMO highlighted its record on fighting poverty through the Local Initiative Investment Budget (OILL), with a budget of 7 million meticals (about US\$ 263,000) to increase food production. According to FRELIMO, the OILL had helped create 12,000 jobs since its inception in 2006. FRELIMO promised to provide more training, employment and housing, in particular to the youth and former combatants.

RENAMO pledged to bring about peace, stability, more democracy, development as well as freedom of expression and opinion. It promised to prevent starvation. It accused FRELIMO of election fraud, an allegation which FRELIMO denied.

MDM leader Simango labelled the FRELIMO government as a "fascist regime" and blamed it for "conserving its economic empire" at the cost of the poverty of many citizens. The MDM promised to focus on employment and opportunities for youth.

A total of 44.44 per cent of the 9.8 million registered voters turned out at the polls, up from the 36 per cent in 2004.

The Commonwealth and the European Union (EU) monitored the polls. They both praised the country for the well-organized and peaceful voting. The EU observers added that freedom of speech had been respected during the campaign period. However, the EU criticized the complexity of the electoral legal framework that had resulted in the rejection of some party lists. The Commonwealth observers criticized the National Elections Commission for its lack of transparency.

The final results gave 191 seats to FRELIMO, up from 160. RENAMO took 51, losing 39. The MDM won eight seats. Mr. Guebuza was re-elected as President.

On 28 December, the Constitutional Council dismissed RENAMO’s claims of massive fraud and validated the election results.

The newly elected Assembly of the Republic held its first session on 12 January 2010. Ms. Verónica Nataniel Macamo Dlovo (FRELIMO) was elected as Speaker, becoming the first woman to assume the post in Mozambique.

On 14 January, Mr. Guebuza was sworn in for a second term.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	9,871,949	
Voters	4,387,250	44.44 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	493,392	
Valid votes	3,893,858	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Mozambican Liberation Front (FRELIMO)	2,907,335	74.66	191
Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO)	688,782	17.68	51
Democratic Movement of Mozambique (MDM)	152,836	3.93	8
Total			250

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	152	
Women	98	39.20 %
Total	250	

NAMIBIA

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament / -
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	National Assembly
Number of members	78 members - 72 directly elected - 6 non-voting members appointed by the President of the Republic.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	27 - 28 November 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all elective seats in the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

107 constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list system proportional representation system, using the simple quotient and greatest remainders system. Undistributed seats after allocation based on the primary calculation are awarded to parties in sequence of the highest surplus votes.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through designation by the political party which held the seat in question, priority being given to persons who figured on the party's list at the previous general elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- citizenship of Namibia (by birth) or child of at least one parent born in Namibia or residence in the country for at least 4 years prior to the date of registration as elector

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 21 years

Ineligibility:

- undischarged bankruptcy, insanity, death sentence, imprisonment for more than one year
- conviction after the country's independence, of any offence in Namibia, or outside Namibia, if such conduct would have constituted an offence within Namibia, and for which they have been sentenced to death or imprisonment of more than twelve months without the option of a fine, unless they have received a free pardon or unless such imprisonment has expired at least ten years before the date of their election
- conviction prior to the country's independence, of any offence in Namibia, or outside Namibia, if such conduct would have constituted an offence within Namibia, and for which they have been sentenced to death or imprisonment of more than twelve months without the option of a fine, unless they have received a free pardon or unless such imprisonment has expired at least ten years before the date of their election, provided that no person sentenced to death or imprisonment for acts committed in connection with the struggle for the independence of Namibia shall be disqualified from being elected as a member of the National Assembly

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- remunerated members of the public service
- membership of the National Council, regional councils and local authorities

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

Candidate should have no criminal record; must be a member of and nominated by a registered political party or association; may be an independent whose nomination is supported by at least 100 registered voters in the constituency for which he/she intends to stand for election.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 1 September 2009, the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) announced that parliamentary and presidential elections would be held on 27 and 28 November.

In the previous elections, held in November 2004, the ruling South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) took 55 of the 72 directly elected seats in the National Assembly. Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba (SWAPO) was elected President, succeeding Mr. Sam Nujoma, who had held office since the country's independence from South Africa in 1990. The Congress of Democrats (CoD) and the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) won five and four seats respectively. The United Democratic Front (UDF) and the National Unity Democratic Organization (Nudo) took three seats each.

In November 2007, a former foreign minister, Hidipo Hamutenya, left SWAPO and formed the Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP). He had unsuccessfully sought the SWAPO nomination for President in 2004. The RDP was considered to be one of SWAPO's biggest challengers in the 2009 elections, in which fourteen parties ran.

As a result of the global economic crisis, demand for Namibia's principal export, diamonds, dropped sharply. The country's economy nevertheless remained relatively robust.

Prior to the 2009 elections, SWAPO seemed to be losing ground in the wake of a number of corruption scandals. It was nevertheless expected to win a clear victory in 2009 as in previous elections. President Pohamba underscored that it was the only party that had fully implemented its manifesto. He called on voter support so that the party would be able to win all 72 seats in the National Assembly and "govern Namibia until the second coming of Jesus Christ". He said that Mr. Hamutenya (RDP) was having serious health problems and would not be able to lift Namibia out of the prevailing economic morass.

The RDP campaigned on an anti-corruption platform. It tried to reach out to the country's young people, who are not old enough to remember the independence struggle and might therefore be less devoted to SWAPO, the former liberation movement. The RDP claimed that the voters roll contained irregularities, including duplicate voter cards, deceased persons and people under 18. The Electoral Commission refuted the claims, noting that many nations had not yet been able to obtain a perfect voter register. The RDP also claimed that the 2004 elections had been rigged. SWAPO took the RDP leader Hamutenya to court for his comments during the election campaign.

Other opposition parties in the outgoing legislature promised to tackle poverty and unemployment and to provide better education in spite of the

economic downturn. They also cited irregularities during the voter registration process, arguing that a number of Angolan nationals with no proof of citizenship had been allowed to register in the northern regions. The Electoral Commission rejected the allegation.

Over 70 per cent of the 1.2 million registered voters turned out at the polls. No major incidents were reported, although logistical problems caused delays at some polling stations.

Observers from the African Union praised the peaceful voting process, describing it as one of the best in Africa. They also noted that Namibia was one of the rare African countries to allow prisoners to vote. Observers from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) also declared that the elections had been "transparent, credible, peaceful, free and fair".

The final results gave 54 seats to SWAPO, one less than in the previous elections. The RDP took eight seats. The remaining seats were won by seven other parties.

The newly elected National Assembly held its first session on 19 March 2010 and re-elected Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab (SWAPO) as its Speaker.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	About 1,200,000	
Voters	811,143	Over 70%
Blank or invalid ballot papers	10,576	
Valid votes	800,567	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Votes	Seats
South -West African People's Organization (SWAPO)	602,580	54
Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP)	90,556	8
Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA)	25,393	2
National Unity Democratic Organisation (Nudo)	24,422	2
United Democratic Front of Namibia (UDF)	19,489	2
All People's Party (APP)	10,795	1
Congress of Democrats (COD)	5,375	1
Republican Party	6,541	1
South-West African National Union of Namibia (SWANU)	4,989	1
Total		72

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

	Directly elected members	Appointed members	Total
Men	46	3	49
Women	15	3	18
Total	61	6	67

Note:

As at 7 April 2010, the members of the following parties had not been sworn in:

- Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP)
- Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA)
- Republican Party

NIGER

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Assemblée nationale / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	113 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	20 October 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Early elections were held for all seats in the National Assembly following the adoption of the new Constitution in August 2009. Elections to the National Assembly had previously taken place in December 2004.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 8 multi-member ordinary constituencies corresponding to regions and the metropolitan area of the capital Niamey (105 Deputies)
- 8 special constituencies to ensure the representation of national minority communities (8 Deputies)

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

- party-list proportional representation system using the simple quotient and the rule of the highest average for normal constituencies. Each list contains as many names as there are seats to be filled in the constituency.
 - First past the post system in the special constituencies
- Vacancies which arise between general elections are filled by substitute members. However, by-elections are held whenever more than one-third of the seats fall vacant.
- Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years or married
- Niger citizenship
- full possession of civil and political rights

Disqualifications: conviction for crime, imprisonment for one year or more, insanity, undischarged bankruptcy, interdiction, contempt of court

- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - qualified electors
 - age: 25 years
 - Niger citizenship

- ▶ **Incompatibilities**
 - member of the Government
 - civil servant
 - work financed by a foreign State or international organization
 - salaried employment

- ▶ **Candidacy requirements**
 - candidatures by legally constituted parties or individuals
 - deposit of CFA 100,000 (US\$ 220), reimbursed if the candidate or his list wins at least 5% of the votes cast in the constituency concerned
 - candidatures submitted 45 days prior to polling

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The October 2009 elections followed months of political turmoil over a proposed constitutional referendum that would, among other things, lift the two-term presidential limit. President Mamadou Tandja had been serving his second five-year term, which was due to end in December 2009.

In the previous elections held in December 2004, the National Movement for the Development Society (MNSD), led by the then Prime Minister Hama Amadou, took 47 of the 113 seats at stake. He had been considered a close ally of President Tandja, who had resigned as leader of the MNSD upon assuming the country's presidency. Four parties allied to the MNSD took a total of 41 seats: the Democratic Social Convention (CDS, led by Speaker Mahamane Ousmane, 22 seats), the Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP, comprising followers of the assassinated President Ibrahim Baré Maïnassara, six seats), the Social and Democratic Rally (RSD, seven seats) and the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress (ANDP, five seats). The main opposition force, the Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism (PDSN), took 25 seats. The PDSN is led by Mr. Elhadj Mahamadou Issoufou, who had lost to Mr. Tandja in the run-off presidential elections in 2004.

In May 2007, Prime Minister Amadou (MNSD) lost a vote of no confidence over corruption charges. The vote was supported by the PDSN and some of the MNSD's allies, including the CDS. In June, Mr. Seïni Oumarou succeeded him as Prime Minister. In June 2008, Mr. Amadou was arrested for alleged

embezzlement of 100 million CFA francs (US\$ 220,000). Some MNSD members who supported Mr. Amadou accused President Tandja and the government of fabricating charges against Mr. Amadou to keep him out of the presidential race in 2009.

On 7 May, President Tandja announced that a referendum on a new Constitution would be held before the end of 2009. Among other things, the proposed Constitution would have lifted the two-term presidential limit. Several parties in the National Assembly, including the CDS - the MNSD's close ally - opposed the referendum. On 11 May, they requested the Constitutional Court to issue a legal opinion. On 25 May 2009, the Constitutional Court ruled that any referendum aimed at lifting the two-term presidential limit would be unconstitutional. The following day, President Tandja issued a decree dissolving the National Assembly without specifying any reason and announced that he would be ruling the country by decree. On 5 June, the Council of Ministers set the referendum date for 4 August. On 12 June, the Constitutional Court annulled the planned referendum. On 29 June, the President dissolved the Constitutional Court and appointed a new one two days later. The PDSN argued that the President had no power to dissolve the Constitutional Court or suspend the Constitution and led street protests demanding his resignation. In the meantime, President Tandja signed a decree establishing a committee to draft a new Constitution.

On 3 July, President Tandja issued another decree calling a constitutional referendum for 4 August. Although the National Independent Electoral Commission had set the date for elections to the National Assembly for 20 August, they were postponed due to the referendum. On 4 August, 68.26 per cent of the 6 million registered voters turned out at the polls. According to the official results, the new Constitution was approved by 92.5 per cent. On 14 August, the Constitutional Court validated the referendum results. The Constitution came into effect on 18 August upon its promulgation by the President of the Republic (see note). The following day, he signed a decree calling elections to the National Assembly for 20 October.

On 19 August, the government stepped down to allow the President to appoint a new government. Prime Minister Seyni Oumarou, the incumbent President of the MNSD, and all 32 ministers were re-appointed on the same day. On 24 September, Mr. Oumarou resigned as Prime Minister to run in the 2009 elections. Interior Minister Albade Abouba became acting Prime Minister.

Prior to the 2009 elections, 30 outgoing opposition parliamentarians were detained by the police on charges of embezzlement. All outgoing parliamentarians were banned from leaving the country.

On 26 September, the Coordination of Democratic Forces for the Republic (CFDR), a coalition of opposition parties including the PDSN and the ANDP, called for a boycott of the elections in protest against the President's dissolution of the National Assembly and the Constitutional Court. PDSN leader Issoufou criticized the elections, which in his view would install a dictatorship in the country. The CFDR called for the restoration of the previous Constitution.

President Tandja urged citizens to turn out massively. Former prime minister Oumarou encouraged them to give the MNSD the mandate to pursue ongoing projects.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) urged President Tandja to postpone the elections indefinitely and favour dialogue with the opposition. Notwithstanding the plea, the President decided to maintain the election date. ECOWAS subsequently suspended Niger's membership.

The Government declared polling day a paid public holiday. A total of 51.27 per cent of the 6 million registered voters turned out at the polls. No major incidents were reported on polling day.

The MNSD won 76 of the 113 seats at stake. Its allies, the RSD and the RDP, took 15 and seven seats respectively. Four small parties took one seat each. Ten independent candidates were elected. Eleven women were elected. The result for one constituency was invalidated by the Constitutional Court. A fresh election took place on 27 December and an independent candidate was elected.

On 14 November, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session.

On 25 November, it elected former prime minister Seïni Oumarou (MNSD) as its new Speaker.

On 18 February 2010, the army seized power in a coup d'Etat. It suspended the 2009 Constitution and dissolved the National Assembly.

Note on the new Constitution (suspended in February 2010 following a coup d'Etat):

The new Constitution (of the Sixth Republic) provides for a bicameral Parliament comprising a National Assembly and a Senate. All senators will serve a five-year term. The new Constitution does not stipulate a timeline for installing the Senate. A separate law will set the statutory number of the senators, eligibilities, incompatibilities, and mode of filling vacancies. Until the Senate is installed, the National Assembly will exercise legislative power. The new Constitution has lifted the presidential term limit. Although the term remains five years, the term of the incumbent, President Mamadou Tandja, has been extended until the next presidential elections, which will be held in December 2012. The new Constitution has transformed the country's political system from a semi-presidential system into a full-fledged presidential one. The President can no longer dissolve parliament. The latter can no longer force the government to resign through a vote of no confidence. The President is both the Head of State and the Head of Government.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	6,059,961	
Voters	3,106,833	51.27 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	100,919	
Valid votes	3,005,914	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
National Movement for the Development Society (MNSD)	76
Social Democratic Rally (RSD)	15
Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP)	7
Niger Patriot Rally (RPN)	1
Niger Self-Management Party (PNA)	1
Niger Workers' Movement Party (PMT)	1
Union of Independent Nigeriens (UNI)	1
Independents	11
Total	113

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	102	
Women	11	9.73 %
Total	113	

NORWAY

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Stortinget / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	169 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	14 September 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

19 multi-member (3 to 17 seats) constituencies corresponding to Norway's 19 counties.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list system, with proportional distribution of seats according to the modified Sainte-Laguë method.

Of the 169 members returned, 150 are elected as constituency representatives while 19 (one seat from each constituency) are elected as "members at large".

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years by the end of the year of election
- Norwegian citizenship
- current or previous residence in the country
- Registration on the voters' list

Disqualifications: sentence for certain criminal offences (such as felonies committed against the independence and security of the State) and work in the service of a foreign State without the consent of the government

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 18 years
- Norwegian citizenship

Ineligibilities:

- Ministry staff (with the exception of ministers, State secretaries and political advisers)
- Supreme Court judges
- members of the diplomatic corps or the consular service.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- Ministers and officials of the Ministries
- Supreme court judges
- posts in consular or diplomatic services

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- submission of the candidates list before 31 March in the year of the elections
- candidatures must be submitted by parties or groups
- Condition for registered parties which polled over 500 votes in one constituency or over 5,000 votes nationwide: the signature of two members of the executive committee of the party's local branch
- Condition for other parties and groups: signature of 500 registered voters in the constituency
- simultaneous nomination in several constituencies possible

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The September 2009 elections were the first to be held after constitutional amendments in February 2007 effectively transformed the Parliament (Stortinget) into a purely unicameral parliament as of 1 October 2009. Until now, the Stortinget, although unicameral, used to split into two bodies (the Odelsting and the Lagting) when handling legislation. These two bodies were abolished after the 2009 elections.

In the previous elections held in September 2005, the three parties in the minority government - the then Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik's Christian People's Party, the Conservative Party, and the Liberal Party - lost to the opposition coalition, the Red-Green alliance. The latter comprised former Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg's Labour Party, the Socialist Left Party and the Centre Party (Agrarians). They took 61, 15 and 11 seats respectively, or 87 in all in the 169-member parliament. The King subsequently appointed

Mr. Stoltenberg as the new premier. Mr. Stoltenberg's government, composed of the Red-Green alliance, became the first majority government in Norway since the mid 1980s.

The 2009 elections were held against the backdrop of the global economic crisis which had also hit Norway, the world's fifth oil exporter. The main issue in the 2009 elections was how much oil revenue should be used for public expenditure. The Labour Party, known for its pro-oil industry stance, initially argued that the Arctic and Lofoten coastlines should be opened for oil drilling in addition to the current North Sea reserves, but then withdrew its proposals due to opposition from the Socialist Left Party.

Under the rules governing the country's oil fund, only 4 per cent of its 2.4 trillion kroner (US\$ 400 billion) can be used to finance public expenditure in order to preserve wealth for future generations. However, Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg (Labour Party) used over 7 per cent of the oil fund in 2009, citing exceptional circumstances triggered by the global economic crisis.

During the campaign, Prime Minister Stoltenberg said he would continue to work with his coalition partners: Ms. Kristin Halvorsen's Socialist Left Party and Ms. Liv Signe Navarsete's Centre Party.

The opposition parties were not united coming into the 2009 elections. The Christian Democrats and the Liberals ruled out forming a coalition with the Progress Party, criticizing the latter's immigration policies. The Progress Party, led by Ms. Siv Jensen, insisted that immigrants should be assimilated into Norwegian society and proposed building Norwegian asylum centres in Africa. It argued that only 10 percent of asylum seekers were entitled to stay in Norway under the strict interpretation of the UN Refugee Convention. Over 10 percent of the country's 4.8 million inhabitants are of foreign origin.

The Progress Party argued that more of the oil fund should be used for public works and taxes should be lowered. It also called for tightening of immigration rules. Ms. Jensen criticized Prime Minister Stoltenberg's government for crowded asylum centres and long waiting lists for non-emergency treatment at public hospitals.

Prime Minister Stoltenberg rebutted by saying that the Progress Party's policies were completely wrong for Norway. He argued that his government had helped protect the country from the global economic crisis and had kept the unemployment rate as low as 3 per cent. He pledged to give

priority to creating more jobs, better schools, care for the elderly and sound environmental policies.

The leader of the Conservative Party, Ms. Erna Solberg, is known for her pro-European Union (EU) policies. However, she underscored that her party would not push for the country's accession to the EU. Norwegians have rejected the referendums on accession twice: first in 1974 (to the European Communities) and again in 1994. Although Prime Minister Stoltenberg's Labour Party is also pro-EU, its coalition partners oppose the EU bid, arguing that the EU focuses too much on a liberal economy and does not do enough to strengthen democracy.

In all, 76.37 per cent of the 3.5 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The final results gave 86 seats to Prime Minister Stoltenberg's coalition, including 64 to the Labour Party. It was the first time in 16 years that the governing coalition won the general elections. The Progressive Party remained the second largest party, winning 41 seats, followed by the Conservative Party with 30 seats. 67 women were elected.

Parliament was convened on 1 October and on 8 October elected Mr. Dag Terje Andersen of the Labour Party as its new Speaker.

On 17 October, the King reappointed Mr. Stoltenberg as Prime Minister. His third government, comprising the Labour Party, the Socialist Left Party and the Centre Party, was sworn in on 20 October.

Election results and statistics

► Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	3,530,785	
Voters	2,696,468	76.37 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	13,732	
Valid votes	2,682,736	

► **Distribution of seats according to political group**

	Seats	Gain/Loss
Prime Minister Stoltenberg's coalition	86	-1
Labour Party	64	3
Centre Party	11	0
Socialist Left Party	11	-4
Progress Party	41	3
Conservative Party	30	7
Christian People's Party	10	-1
Liberal Party	2	-8
Total	169	

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	102	
Women	67	39,64 %
Total	169	

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	10
31 to 40 years	37
41 to 50 years	55
51 to 60 years	52
61 to 70 years	15
Total	169

PANAMA

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Asamblea Nacional / National Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	71 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	3 May 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

Single and multi-member constituencies.

Each administrative district within the country's nine provinces having more than 40,000 inhabitants comprises one constituency. Each constituency elects one representative per 30,000 inhabitants and an additional one for every fraction over 10,000.

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

- in single-member constituencies, members are elected by a first past the post system.

- in multi-member constituencies, a preferential party-list proportional representation system is used, with seats allotted initially according to a double quotient system.

- The first allocation uses a simple electoral quotient. Further seats are allotted on the basis of the same quotient divided in half. Remaining seats are allotted to those parties with the greatest remainders.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes chosen at the same time as titular members.

Voting is compulsory for registered electors.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Panamanian citizenship

- full possession of civil and political rights

▶ Eligibility

- age: 21 years
- Panamanian citizenship by birth or naturalization for at least 15 years
- residence in the constituency where running for a minimum of one year immediately preceding the polling day
- ineligibility; conviction (accompanied by a detention order) or offences against the public administration or election-connected offences

▶ Incompatibilities

- remunerated public employment (except for teachers of public schools)

▶ Candidacy requirements

- Candidatures to be submitted by political parties within three months of the beginning of the period of electoral process

Background and Outcome of the Elections

As in the past, parliamentary elections were held at the same time as the presidential polls. At stake were 71 seats in the National Assembly.

In the previous elections to the then 78-member National Assembly, held in May 2004, the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) won 41 seats. Its leader, Mr. Marín Torrijos, won the presidential election with the support of the New Fatherland Alliance (NP), which comprised the PRD and the Popular Party (PP). The parties in the Vision of the Country Alliance (VP) - the Arnulfista Party (PA), the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (MOLIRENA) and the National Liberal Party (PLN) - won 17, four and three seats respectively. The Solidarity Party of former president Guillermo Endara took nine seats. The remainder went to small parties.

President Torrijos was elected on a pledge to implement tax reform and sign a free trade agreement with the United States. However, the agreement was held up in the US Congress amid concern about Panama's status as an off-shore tax haven and had not been ratified by the 2009 elections.

Major contenders in the 2009 elections were the PRD-led coalition, One Country for All (PPT, Un país para todos), and the Democratic Change (CD)-led Alliance for Change (APC, Alianza para el cambio). Former president Endara, who led the Moral Vanguard of the Homeland (VMP), was also running for president.

The PPT comprised the PRD, the PP and the Liberal Party (PL) of Mr. Joaquín Fernando Franco. It endorsed former housing minister, Ms. Balbina Herrera, as its presidential candidate.

The APC comprised the CD, the Panamenista Party (PPA, led by Mr. Juan Carlos Varela), the Patriotic Union Party (PUP, led by Mr. Raúl Mulino) and MOLIRENA. The APC's candidate was Mr. Ricardo Martinelli (CD), the owner of Panama's biggest supermarket chain, who pledged to improve the health system, education, transportation and security. He also pledged to finalize the free trade agreement with the United States. The CD promised to help young entrepreneurs and increase spending on education.

PRD leader Herrera took Mr. Martinelli to task for what she considered to be his disdainful attitude towards the poor including peasants and housemaids. Referring to her own background as the daughter of a maid, she expressed great pride in having risen to the position of presidential candidate. She further stated that "people's conscience and dignity cannot be bought in supermarkets".

Mr. Martinelli urged voters to support the APC on the grounds that the PRD government had left 40 per cent of the population poor. Although he had taken only five per cent of the votes in the 2004 presidential race, Mr. Martinelli was said to have greater support in 2009 thanks to the worries caused by the global economic crisis.

On 3 May, 70.05 per cent of the country's 2.2 million voters turned out at the polls. The final results in the parliamentary elections gave a total of 42 seats to the APC and 27 to the PPT. The remainder went to independents. The VMP failed to win parliamentary representation.

In the presidential elections, Mr. Martinelli was elected with nearly 60 per cent of the vote; Ms. Herrera took about 38 per cent.

On 1 July, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session and elected Mr. José Luis Varela Rodríguez (Panamenista) as its new Speaker.

On 1 July, Mr. Ricardo Martinelli was sworn in as the country's new President.

Election results and statistics▶ **Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	2,209,555	
Voters	1,547,733	70.05 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	93,510	
Valid votes	1,454,223	

▶ **Distribution of seats according to political group**

Alliance for Change (APC)		42
Panamenista Party		21
Democratic Change (CD)		15
Patriotic Union		4
Nationalist Republican Liberal Movement (MOLIRENA)		2
One Country for All (PPT)		27
Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD)		26
People's Party		1
Independents		2
Total		71

▶ **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	65	
Women	6	8.45 %
Total	71	

PORTUGAL

Assembly of the Republic

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Assembleia da Republica / Assembly of the Republic
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	230 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	27 September 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Assembly of the Republic on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

22 multi-member constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Closed party-list system, with proportional representation based on the d'Hondt method; each list must bear as many names of titular candidates as there are seats to be filled in the constituency. Electors may only vote for one list. List must also include between two and five alternate candidates.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the first of the "next-in-line" candidates appearing on the same party list.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Portuguese citizenship (Portuguese citizens who have dual nationality are not deprived of their electoral rights)

Disqualifications:

- persons declared legally incompetent serving a sentence imposed by a court of law;

- mentally ill persons (even if not declared legally incompetent for serving a sentence imposed by a court) upon admission to a psychiatric institution or declared mentally incompetent by two physicians;

- persons deprived of their political rights by virtue of a judicial or court order.

► Eligibility

- qualified electors
- age: 18 years
- Portuguese citizenship

Disqualifications:

- President of the Republic;
- Serving civil governors and vice-governors;
- Serving magistrates or public prosecutors;
- Sitting judges not covered by the previous paragraph;
- Permanent military personnel and members of military forces, during active service;
- Serving career diplomats;
- Anyone exercising diplomatic functions on the date of submission of the candidature, if not covered by the previous paragraph;
- Members of the National Election Commission.

Special cases of incompatibilities for constituency in which professional activity is exercised:

- Directors and heads of tax offices;
- Religious or cult officers with jurisdictional powers.

Special case of conflict of interest for the constituency covering the country of other nationality:

- Portuguese citizens with dual nationality are not allowed to run for constituencies abroad which covers the country of other nationality.

► Incompatibilities

- President of the Republic;
- Members of the Government;
- Members of the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Audit Court, the Superior Council for the Judiciary, the Superior Council for the Administrative and Fiscal Courts;
- Attorney-General and Ombudsman;
- Deputies to the European Parliament;
- Members of the Government of the Autonomous Regions of Azores and Madeira;
- Ambassadors appointed from outside the diplomatic service;
- Civilian governors and vice-governors;
- Presidents of municipal councils and municipal councillors appointed to full-time or part-time posts;

- State employees and employees of other public organisations;
- Members of the National Election Commission;
- Members of ministerial offices or the legal equivalent;
- Staff of international or foreign state organisations;
- President and Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council;
- Members of the High Authority for the Mass Media;
- Members of the Board of state companies, companies with state-owned capital or companies in which the State is the majority shareholder, as well as independent public institutions.

► **Candidacy requirements**

- Candidates are nominated by political parties. However, the lists submitted may bear names of persons who are not party members

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The September 2009 elections were held against the backdrop of the global economic crisis, which severely affected the country of 10 million inhabitants. The country's economy contracted by 3.7 per cent in the second quarter of 2009 compared to the same period in 2008. The unemployment rate increased from 7.9 to 9.1 per cent, the highest in 20 years. The State budget deficit is expected to exceed 6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2009.

In the previous elections held in February 2005 (see note), the Socialist Party (PS) won 121 of the 230 seats in the Assembly of the Republic. The then ruling Social Democratic Party (PPD/PSD) took 75. Mr. Jose Socrates (PS) became the new Prime Minister.

Mr. Socrates implemented a series of economic and social reforms, promising to make the Portuguese economy more competitive. These reforms helped reduce the budget deficit from 6.1 per cent in 2005 to 1.8 per cent in 2007, prior to the arrival of the global economic crisis.

How to deal with the economic crisis remained the main issue in the 2009 elections, in which 15 political parties were vying for seats.

Prime Minister Socrates promised to implement large-scale public works projects to create more jobs. These included a new Lisbon airport, a bullet train to Spain as well as a road and rail bridge across the River Tagus in Lisbon. He also promised to continue economic and social reforms.

The largest opposition party, the PPD/PSD, was led by Ms. Manuela Ferreira Leite, who was aspiring to become Portugal's first elected woman prime minister. Ms. Ferreira Leite argued that the PS's public works projects were wasteful and a non-essential luxury. She claimed that the PS would be passing on debts to future generations. Ms. Ferreira Leite, a former finance minister, pledged to make huge cuts in government spending and boost private investment to revive the economy. The PPD/PSD promised to improve the reform plans by pursuing broader consensus. Although the PPD/PSD had ruled the country with the PS in the 1980s, Ms. Ferreira Leite vehemently rejected such a coalition during the election campaign.

The Democratic and Social Centre - People's Party (CDS-PP) led by Mr. Paulo Portas pledged to remain the best opposition force to the PS government. The Left Bloc (BE, which had won eight seats in 2005), led by Mr. Francisco Louca, promised to introduce higher corporate taxes to pay for social services. Mr. Jeronimo de Sousa led the Unitary Democratic Coalition (CDU) comprising the Communist Party - Green Coalition (PCP-PEV). The CDU had won 14 seats in the 2005 elections. Both the BE and the CDU ruled out the possibility of joining a PS-led government.

A total of 59.74 per cent of the 9.5 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

The PS remained the largest party in the Assembly of the Republic with 97 seats but failed to retain an absolute majority. The PPD/PSD took 81, six more than in the 2005 elections. The CDS-PP secured 21 seats, up from 12. The BE doubled its share from eight to 16. The PCP-PEV took the remaining 15 seats. 64 women were elected.

On 15 October, the Assembly of the Republic held its first session and re-elected Mr. Jaime Gama (PS) as its Speaker.

On 26 October, Mr. Socrates formed a minority government.

Note:

In Portugal, general elections are held between 14 September and 14 October in the year in which the term of Parliament ends. If there are early elections, the new parliament completes the remaining term of the outgoing parliament in addition to its four-year term. The 2009 elections were thus held in September instead of February.

Election results and statistics**▶ Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	9,514,322	
Voters	5,683,967	59.74 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	177,184	
Valid votes	5,506,783	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats	Number of women
Socialist Party (PS)	2,077,695	37.88	97	28
Social Democratic Party (PPD/PSD)	1,654,777	30.17	81	22
Democratic and Social Centre - People's Party (CDS-PP)	592,997	10.81	21	4
Left Bloc (BE)	558,062	10.17	16	7
Unitary Democratic Coalition (CDU)	446,994	8.15	15	3
Total			230	64

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	166	
Women	64	27.83 %
Total	230	

Note:

64 women were elected in the September 2009 elections. However, the number of women was reduced to 63 after the formation of the new Government in October 2009.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Parliament

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parlament / Parliament
Structure of Parliament	Unicameral
Number of members	101 directly elected
Term of House	4 years
Date of elections	5 April and 29 July 2009

Elections of 5 April 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

1 nationwide constituency.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation based on the d'Hondt system.

An independent candidate must poll at least 3% of votes cast nationwide to win a seat. The threshold for a party or socio political organization is 6%.

Electoral blocs are not allowed to participate in the elections.

Elections are validated if the turnout is 50 per cent plus one voter.

Vacancies which occur in between general elections are filled by the next-in-line candidates.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Moldovan citizenship

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 18 years

- Moldovan citizenship

People holding dual citizenship are allowed to vote and stand for the

election. However, if elected, they have to either give up their mandate or to start the procedure of renouncing their second citizenship.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the Republic
- members of the Government
- any paid position, including those offered by a foreign State or international organization

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidates nominated by parties, or as independents
- independent candidates must be supported by between 2,000, and 2,500 voters.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 2 February 2009, the parliament unanimously voted to set the date of the parliamentary elections for 5 April. They were the fifth since the country gained independence in 1991.

In the previous elections held in March 2005, the Party of Moldovan Communists (PCRM), led by President Vladimir Voronin, won 56 of the 101 seats at stake. The pro-Russian Democratic Moldova Bloc (BMD) took 34 seats, while the Christian Democratic Popular Party (PPCD, a pro-Romanian party), took 11 seats.

In April, the parliament re-elected Mr. Voronin as the country's President for his second and last term according to Moldova's Constitution. The BMD collapsed when the Our Moldova Alliance (AMN) left the bloc with its 24 members, who refused to support the re-election of Mr. Voronin as President. Several members of the PPCD also left that party after it decided to support Mr. Voronin's re-election.

In April 2008, the parliament passed a series of amendments to the Electoral Code. The threshold to win parliamentary representation was raised from 4 to 6 per cent for political parties and the participation of election blocs was banned. The threshold for independent candidates remained at 3 per cent. The PCRM and the PPCD, which supported the amendments, argued that election blocs failed to represent the will of citizens since they were often disbanded after the elections. Opposition parties (both parliamentary and non-parliamentary) argued that the amendments were meant to bar access for the opposition to parliament. Although the Parliamentary

Assembly of the Council of Europe recommended that the government revise the threshold requirements, they were maintained until the 2009 elections.

The number of eligible voters increased to 2,549,804 compared with 2,270,668 in 2005. They included 627,950 Moldovans abroad as well as 34,000 Moldovans in the breakaway Dniester region. Opposition parties claimed that ghost voters had been included in the voters' list, an allegation the Ministry of Information Development strongly denied. In a bid to prevent vote rigging, all ballot papers were numbered.

Twelve political parties and five independent candidates were vying for seats in 2009. Apart from the PCRM, only three other parties were expected to win parliamentary representation: the Liberal Party (PL), the Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova (PLDM), and the AMN. The PL did not hold any seats in the outgoing legislature, but was expected to win a significant number of seats in 2009. It was led by Mr. Mihai Ghimpu, Mayor of the capital Chisinau. The PLDM considers itself as an opposition force. It was established in 2007 by Mr. Vlad Filat, who in late 2008 faced charges relating to cigarette smuggling and the sale of aircraft and a cement plant in the 1990s. Due to an internal split, the AMN, led by Mr. Serafim Urechean, held only 14 seats at the end of the outgoing legislature.

All parties promised to create new jobs by inviting more foreign investment, increase salaries and pensions, fight corruption, modernize the countryside and deal with the consequences of the global economic crisis. Greater integration with the European Union was part of the platform of all major parties. The PL, PLDM and AMN pledged to seek membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), while the PCRM argued that the country should maintain its neutrality. The PCRM and the AMN underscored the need to keep a strategic partnership with Russia.

Pre-election polls indicated that no party would win a two-thirds majority to be able to form a new government on its own.

In all, 60.17 per cent of 2.5 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

Nearly 400 international observers monitored the polls. They included representatives of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) and the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The OSCE/ODIHR said the

elections met "many international standards and commitments", but called for "further improvements" to make the electoral process "free from undue administrative interference". The CIS observers said that the elections had been "free and transparent".

PL leader Filat insisted that the elections had been rigged and demanded fresh elections.

The preliminary results gave 60 seats to the PCRM. The PL and the PLDM won 15 seats each and the ANM took 11. The announcement of these results sparked street protests in the capital Chisinau demanding fresh elections; they soon turned violent. By 7 April, over 10,000 people participated in the protest, some of whom stormed the Parliament building and Office of the President.

On 13 April, the Constitutional Court ordered a recount, which took place on 15 April. The final results remained unchanged.

The newly elected parliament held its first session on 5 May. On 12 May, it elected outgoing President, Mr. Vladimir Voronin (PCRM), as its new Speaker. He was constitutionally barred for serving another term as President.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	2,586,309	
Voters	1,556,083	60.17 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	18,996	
Valid votes	1,537,087	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	Seats
Party of Moldovan Communists (PCRM)	760,551	60
Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova (PLDM)	191,113	15
Liberal Party (PL)	201,879	15
"Our Moldova" Alliance (AMN)	150,155	11
Total		101

► **Distribution of seats according to sex**

Men	77	
Women	24	23.76 %
Total	101	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Architect, surveyor, engineer	19
Education profession	19
Legal profession	13
Economist	12
Research/sciences	10
Physician, dentist	9
Agriculture/farming	6
Political party official	4
Finance, management or business	3
Civil service and local authority administration	2
Journalism, broadcasting, media	2
IT/technology	1
Other	1
Total	101

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	3
31 to 40 years	25
41 to 50 years	34
51 to 60 years	29
61 to 70 years	9
Over 70 years	1
Total	101

Elections of 29 July 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament following the early dissolution of this body on 15 June 2009. Elections had previously taken place on 5 April 2009.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

1 nationwide constituency.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Proportional representation based on the d'Hondt system.

An independent candidate must poll at least 3% of votes cast nationwide to win a seat. The threshold for a party or socio political organization is 5%.

Electoral blocs are not allowed to participate in the elections.

Elections are validated if the turnout is over 33 per cent.

Vacancies which occur in between general elections are filled by the next-in-line candidates.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Moldovan citizenship

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 18 years

- Moldovan citizenship

People holding dual citizenship are allowed to vote and stand for the election. Starting from the July 2009 elections, persons with dual citizenship are no longer required to renounce their second nationality.

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the Republic

- members of the government (based on the amendment to the Moldovan Law on MPs' status adopted on 20 October 2009, persons appointed to the government may hold a government post for a maximum of six months)

- ombusman
- any paid position, including those offered by a foreign State or international organization

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidates nominated by parties, or as independents
- independent candidates must be supported by between 2,000, and 2,500 voters.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 29 July, the Republic of Moldova held its second general elections in 2009, less than four months after the previous elections in April. The announcement of preliminary results of the April election, giving 60 of the 101 seats to the ruling Party of Moldovan Communists (PCRM), had led to street protests for fresh elections that quickly turned violent. The Constitutional Court subsequently ordered a recount of the votes but the results remained unchanged. In addition to the PCRM, three opposition parties, instead of two in the 2005 elections, entered Parliament. The Liberal Party (PL) and the Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova (PLDM) won 15 seats each, while the "Our Moldova" Alliance (AMN) took 11.

The newly elected Parliament was convened on 5 May and elected the outgoing President, Mr. Vladimir Voronin (PCRM), as its new Speaker. Unlike the 2005 presidential elections in which some opposition members supported Mr. Voronin's candidacy, no opposition members supported the PCRM's candidate in 2009. Consequently, outgoing Prime Minister Zinaida Greceanii (PCRM) failed three times to secure the required three-fifths majority (61 votes) to be elected as the country's president. Under the Constitution, Parliament must be dissolved and early elections called in such a case. In the absence of a new president, Mr. Voronin became acting President and appointed Ms. Greceanii as interim Prime Minister.

On 10 June, Parliament approved a caretaker government led by Ms. Greceanii. On 12 June, the Constitutional Court authorized acting President Voronin to dissolve Parliament and call early elections. Shortly before the dissolution on 15 June, the outgoing parliament lowered the threshold for political parties to win parliamentary representation from 6 to 5 per cent. The minimum turnout for a valid election was also lowered, from 50 to 33 per cent. The three opposition parties, which had proposed to lower the threshold to 4 per cent, boycotted the vote. On the same day, acting President Voronin signed a decree dissolving Parliament and called new

elections for 29 July.

In the meantime, on 10 June, former Speaker Marian Lupu resigned from the PCRM, accusing it of dividing society under the pretext of promoting national interests. He subsequently joined the Democratic Party of Moldova (PDM), which had failed to win parliamentary representation in the April 2009 elections. President Voronin claimed that Mr. Lupu had defected because he had not been nominated for the post of president.

The July 2009 elections were held against the backdrop of the global economic downturn, which had affected the country severely. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) would shrink by 9 per cent in 2009.

Eight parties contested the elections polls. The main contenders were the PCRM, the PLDM, the PL, the PDM and the AMN. Although the three parliamentary opposition parties - the PL, the PLDM and the AMN - ran on separate platforms, they agreed to cooperate and not to criticize each other during the elections. They also announced that they would form a post-election alliance.

Most parties campaigned on manifestos similar to those of the April poll, promising to create new jobs, increase wages and pensions, fight corruption and attract more foreign investors in order to tackle the economic crisis. During the campaign, however, the PCRM and the opposition parties - both parliamentary and non-parliamentary ones - focused a lot of energy on blaming each other for the post-election violence and subsequent political stalemate.

The PCRM campaigned under a new slogan, "Let's defend our Fatherland". It produced a documentary film, *Attack on Moldova*, criticizing opposition parties and Romania for the April post-election violence. Mr. Voronin urged voters to support his party in order to shield the country from foreign influence. He promised to raise the average monthly wage (from the current 245 euros) to 500 euros by 2013. He stressed the need for a strategic partnership with the Russian Federation. At the same time he promised to work for accession to the European Union (EU). Prime Minister Greceanii urged voters to turn out at the polls, arguing that continued political stalemate and a possible third parliamentary election could push the country to the "brink of default". The Constitution stipulates that Parliament cannot be dissolved twice within one year.

PLDM leader Vlad Filat promised to change the Constitution to allow for the country's president to be directly elected. He pledged to obtain EU associate status by 2012 and to forge a strategic partnership with the United States and Romania. The PLDM rebuked acting President Voronin for signing a 500-million-dollar loan agreement on 22 June with the Russian Federation without publishing the repayment conditions. It argued that if the country failed to pay back the loan, it would be obliged to pay a "political price" such as making available a military base for Russian troops or cooperating in the conflict in the breakaway Dniester region. It added that such agreements with the Russian Federation would hamper the country's EU bid. The PCRM vehemently rejected the accusations and underscored that the Government was still negotiating the terms of the loan, which would be used exclusively for infrastructure projects.

The PL, led by Mr. Mihai Ghimpu promised to work for the country's adhesion to the EU and poverty reduction. It distributed leaflets showing photos of post-election protestors it claimed had been brutalized by the police. The PCRM accused PL deputy leader Dorin Chirtoaca of active involvement in the post-election violence, an allegation that Mr. Chirtoaca vehemently rejected. He is the only opposition member to have been summoned and questioned in that connection.

Under the slogan "The political war must stop!", the PDM called on voters to support peace, conciliation and consensus in order to solve the country's economic and social woes. Local media speculated that Mr. Lupu's defection from the PCRM was part of the PCRM's strategy to form a post-election alliance with the PDM and jointly elect the country's new president. Mr. Lupu dismissed the speculation. He also denied forming a coalition with the three opposition parties in the outgoing legislature.

The AMN, led by Mr. Serafim Urechean, produced its own film in response to the PCRM's Attack on Moldova. It urged voters to oust the PCRM from power under the slogan, "Let's save the Fatherland from Communists!". It promised to work for accession to the EU while at the same time strengthening cooperation with Romania and Ukraine.

For the first time, the country voted on a week day. The caretaker government declared 29 July a public holiday. Opposition parties argued that the PCRM was trying to deprive Moldovans abroad of their right to vote. Deputy Speaker Vladimir Turcan rebutted that polling stations abroad would be open after working hours. In the April poll, nearly 17,000 Moldovans had

cast their ballots abroad.

The Electoral Commission reviewed the voters' roll ahead of the elections. The new roll comprised an additional 105,223 registered voters. 58.77 per cent of the 2.7 million registered voters turned out at the polls, which were monitored by over 300 international observers. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said the elections were "well administered, allowing for competition of political parties representing a plurality of views". It nevertheless observed that there had been some voter intimidation and unbalanced reporting by the State-controlled media.

The final results gave 48 seats to the PCRM and 18 to the PLDM. The PL, the PDM and the AMN took 15, 13 and seven seats respectively. 25 women were elected.

After the elections, the PLDM, the PL, the PDM and the AMN announced that they would form a coalition government.

On 28 August, the newly elected Parliament held its first session and elected Mr. Mihai Ghimpu (PL) as its new Speaker.

The election by Parliament of the country's President, set for 23 October, was postponed since there was only one candidate, Mr. Marian Lupu, whose candidacy was endorsed by the coalition government. On 30 October, Parliament passed amendments to allow presidential elections to take place even if there is only one candidate. The article stipulating the dissolution of Parliament after two unsuccessful presidential elections was also modified, so that Parliament can not be dissolved within 365 days of the previous dissolution.

On 10 November, Parliament failed to elect a new President. The only candidate, Mr. Lupu, received 53 votes, eight short of the required 61. The PCRM boycotted the session. On 1 December, Acting President and Speaker Mihai Ghimpu signed a decree establishing a commission to draft a constitutional amendment allowing the President to be elected with 52 votes (50% plus one) instead of the current 61 (three-fifths). However, members of the Alliance for European Integration opposed the bill and proposed a constitutional referendum that would provide for direct presidential elections. Consequently, the Constitution was not amended. In the second round of presidential elections on 7 December, Parliament once again failed to elect Mr. Lupu. Parliament is now due to be dissolved after 16 June 2010

for early parliamentary elections.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	2,708,381	
Voters	1,591,757	58.77 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	10,240	
Valid votes	1,581,517	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Party of Moldovan Communists (PCRM)	706,732	44.69	48
Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova (PLDM)	262,028	16.57	18
Liberal Party (PL)	232,108	14.68	15
Democratic Party of Moldova (PDM)	198,268	12.54	13
'Our Moldova' Alliance (AMN)	116,194	7.35	7
Total			101

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	76	
Women	25	24.75 %
Total	101	

▶ Distribution of seats according to profession

	Seats
Legal profession	19
Education profession	16
Architect, surveyor, engineer	16
Research/sciences	15
Economist	11
Physician, dentist	9
Agriculture/farming	5
Political party official	5
Civil service and local authority administration	3
Journalism, broadcasting, media	2
Total	101

▶ **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	3
31 to 40 years	25
41 to 50 years	36
51 to 60 years	28
61 to 70 years	8
Over 70 years	1
Total	101

SOUTH AFRICA

National Assembly

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Parliament / -
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	National Assembly
Number of members	400 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	22 April 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats of the National Assembly on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

9 multi-member (4 to 43 seats) constituencies corresponding to the provinces.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

- 200 members chosen from national party lists

- 200 members chosen from regional party lists.

Each party receives four Assembly seats for each percentage of the nationwide vote won.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by the "next-in-line" candidates of the same party list.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- South African citizenship or person who in terms of an Act of Parliament has been accorded the right to exercise the franchise

- Registered voters living overseas may vote in the elections.

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors

- age: 18 years

- South African citizenship or person who in terms of an Act of Parliament has been accorded the right to exercise the franchise

- residence in the constituency where running for election (regional candidates).

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- President of the Republic.
- any office of profit under the State

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidates may be nominated by parties registered in terms of the Electoral Act 1993. - a party's list should not exceed 400 candidates and may either contain both a national list and a list for each region or only the lists from each region.
- Deposit of R25,000 (US\$ 3,400)

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The April 2009 elections were the fourth to be held since the end of apartheid in 1994. At stake were 400 seats in the National Assembly (lower chamber of parliament). Parliament was due to elect the country's new president after the elections.

In the previous elections, held in April 2004, the ANC, led by then President Thabo Mbeki, won 279 seats. The Democratic Alliance (DA) came in a distant second with 50 seats, followed by the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) with 28 seats. Nine other parties won fewer than ten seats each.

Under the ANC Government, the country of 48.8 million inhabitants achieved economic progress and many citizens benefited from the "black empowerment programme". However, the unemployment rate remained high - at 22 per cent - and around 34 per cent of citizens were reportedly living on less than US\$ 2 per day. Opposition forces criticized the Government for not doing enough for all poor citizens; their allegation that only ANC supporters benefited from the programme was denied by the ANC. How to tackle the high crime rate (some 50 murders and 150 rapes reported every day) and provide adequate means to the estimated 5.7 million people affected by HIV remained the main social issues.

In December 2007, President Mbeki lost the ANC's leadership to ANC Vice-President Jacob Zuma. Mr. Zuma had been sacked by Mr. Mbeki as Deputy President of the country over charges of financial impropriety. In September 2008, Mr. Mbeki resigned as President over allegations that he had interfered in a corruption case against Mr. Zuma. He was succeeded by

Mr. Kgalema Motlanthe, one of Mr. Zuma's close allies. This was widely seen as an interim move until the general election. In November, ANC members who were dissatisfied with the way Mr. Mbeki had been forced out of office, broke away to form a new party, the Congress of the People (COPE) under the co-leadership of former Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota and former Gauteng Province Premier Mphazima Shilowa.

On 13 February 2009, President Motlanthe called elections for 22 April. Pursuant to the Government's 50:50 gender equality policy, the major parties endorsed more women candidates than in the previous elections. In all, 9,130 candidates, including 3,511 women, representing 40 parties ran in the 2009 elections.

The ANC ran on its record, citing economic development and support for the poor in the form of housing, water and electricity. Mr. Zuma promised to enhance education in order to reduce the high illiteracy rate. The party ran a TV ad for the first time, showing the image of its former charismatic leader, Nelson Mandela, being released from prison. Former president Mandela made a rare appearance at an ANC rally and renewed his support for the party.

Fighting corruption became a key electoral issue for opposition parties during the campaign. The ANC came under heavy criticism over corruption charges against Mr. Zuma, who had been accused of accepting bribes from a French arms company. State prosecutors dropped the charges in April, two weeks before the elections.

The DA, led by Ms. Helen Zille, pledged to run a "clean" government. It accused Mr. Zuma of having "bullied" State prosecutors into withdrawing the corruption charges and filed a legal challenge against the decision. It promised to create more jobs, provide better education and tackle crime. Formed in 2000 following a merger of the Democratic Party and the New National Party, the DA principally draws its support from white and colored people - who account for 4.2 and 4.3 million inhabitants respectively - and has its stronghold in Western Cape province, the centre of the tourist industry.

The COPE pledged to push for the reinstatement of the corruption charges against Mr. Zuma. Its leader said the ANC had betrayed the "dream of anti-apartheid struggle leaders". The COPE promised to fight crime by introducing a "three strikes" policy, whereby career criminals would face life

imprisonment for repeat offences of rape, robbery or murder. Although the COPE reportedly struggled to run an effective election campaign, its emergence changed South Africa's political landscape and challenged the ANC's two-thirds majority in Parliament. Both parties draw their support mainly from black South Africans, who make up over 77% of the population.

The IFP, founded in 1975 by Mr. Mangosuthu Buthelezi, is supported by the Zulu community. It also campaigned on a platform to fight corruption and crime.

A total of 23,000 police officers and soldiers were deployed to ensure security. The run-up to the election was relatively peaceful, although both the ANC and the IFP alleged interference by the other party. The DA, the COPE and the IFP all accused the ANC of vote buying and claimed that it had distributed government food parcels during the campaign. The ANC dismissed the allegation.

More women (12,722,622) than men (10,459,375) registered in the 2009 elections. Overall, 77.30 per cent of the 23 million registered voters turned out at the polls, creating long queues at many polling stations.

The polls were monitored by 355 international observers and hailed as free and fair by the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The AU praised the turnout but recommended that the Independent Electoral Commission find a solution to the problem of long queues in future elections.

Thirteen parties won parliamentary representation. The ANC won 264 seats, just short of a two-thirds majority. The DA and the COPE followed with 67 and 30 seats respectively. The IFP won 18 seats. Other parties took fewer than four seats each.

On 6 May, the newly elected National Assembly held its first session and elected Mr. Max Vuyisile Sisulu (ANC) as its new Speaker and Mr. Zuma as the country's new President. The following day, the National Council of Provinces re-elected Mr. Mninwa Johannes Mahlangu (ANC) as its Chairperson. On 9 May, Mr. Zuma was sworn in as President.

Election results and statistics**▶ Voter turnout**

Number of registered electors	23,181,997	
Voters	17,919,966	77.30 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
African National Congress (ANC)	264
Democratic Alliance (DA)	67
Congress of the People (COPE)	30
Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)	18
Freedom Front Plus (FF+)	4
Independent Democrats (ID)	4
United Democratic Movement (UDM)	4
African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP)	3
United Christian Democratic Party (UCDP)	2
African Peoples' Convention (APC)	1
Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO)	1
Minority Front (MF)	1
Pan Africanist Congress (PAC)	1
Total	400

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	226	
Women	174	43.50 %
Total	400	

TUNISIA

Chamber of Deputies

Parliament name	- / -
(generic / translated)	
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Majlis Al-Nuwab / Chamber of Deputies
Number of members	214 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	25 October 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the Chamber of Deputies on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

- 26 multi-member constituencies covering the 24 governorates of the country. The two most densely populated governorates (Tunis and Sfax) each comprise two constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Mixed**

- 161 members are elected from the constituencies. In each of the 26 constituencies, the voter selects a list of candidates without the possibility of replacing the names given. The list which secures an absolute majority at the national level wins all constituency seats.

- 53 remaining seats are allotted to parties that fail to win any constituency seats. The seats are attributed on the basis of the percentage of votes won at the national level by using the highest average formula. The seat goes to the candidate whose name appears first on the list concerned at the time of its submission.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Tunisian citizenship or Tunisian nationality for at least five years

- full possession of civil and political rights

Disqualifications: conviction of crime, conviction entailing an unsuspended prison sentence in excess of three months, guardianship, undischarged bankruptcy, insanity, active members of the armed and

security forces

▶ **Eligibility**

- qualified electors
- age: 23 years
- Tunisian citizenship
- Tunisian father or Tunisian mother

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- magistrates
- non-elective public functions remunerated by State funds
- President and members of the Constitutional Council
- directors and agents of national enterprises or public establishments
- president and members of the Economic and Social Council
- ambassadors
- governors, first delegates, delegates, sector heads (regional public functions)
- civil servants of and remunerated by a foreign State or international organization
- the foregoing provisions shall not apply to members of government

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidatures must be submitted to the competent regional authorities during the fourth week preceding the elections
- each list must bear as many names as seats to be filled in the constituency.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The October 2009 elections were held for an enlarged 214-member Chamber of Deputies (up from 189). They were held in parallel with presidential elections (see note). Constitutional amendments in July 2008 lowered the minimum voting age from 20 to 18 years.

In the previous elections held in October 2004, President Ben Ali's Democratic Constitutional Rally (RCD) won 152 of 189 seats at stake. The Democratic Socialist Movement (MDS), which backed Mr. Ben Ali in the presidential elections, took 14 seats. The Popular Unity Party (PUP) followed with 11 seats. The Unionist Democratic Union (UDU), the Ettajdid (Renewal) Movement and the Social Liberal Party (PSL) took seven, three and two seats respectively. President Ben Ali was re-elected with over 94 per cent of the votes.

In the 2009 elections, 1,080 candidates from nine parties and 15 independent lists were vying for seats in the Chamber of Deputies. Only the RCD and the MDS fielded candidates in all constituencies.

President Ben Ali, who has been in power since 1987, was seeking his fifth consecutive term in office. He was challenged by Mr. Mohamed Bouchiha (PUP), Mr. Ahmed Inoubli (UDU) and Mr. Ahmed Brahim (Ettajdid Movement). The 79-year old MDS leader, Ismaïl Boulahia, who had surpassed the constitutional age limit for presidential candidates (75 years), backed President Ben Ali. Although he was eligible to run for president, PSL leader Mondher Thabet also backed the incumbent President.

President Ben Ali's RCD presented a 24-point platform in which it pledged to enhance democracy and improve working conditions for all Tunisians. MDS leader Boulahia said that President Ben Ali was the best placed to advance a pluralistic democratic process.

The PUP promised to create a democratic system with greater balance between the legislative and executive branches and an independent judiciary.

The Ettajdid Movement pledged to implement tax reform to help workers and the middle class. The Ministry of the Interior seized an issue of the Movement's newspaper containing its election manifesto for not respecting the electoral law

A total of 89.40 per cent of the 4.9 million registered voters turned out at the polls.

A delegation from the African Union Commission declared that the electoral campaign had taken place in "calm and serenity".

The RCD secured 84.59 per cent of the total votes, winning all 161 constituency seats. The MDS remained the second largest party, winning 16 seats under the proportional representation system. The PUP came in third with 12 seats. The UDU, the PSL, the Green Party for Progress (PVP) and the Ettajdid Movement took the remaining seats. 59 women were elected.

In the presidential election, President Ben Ali won a fifth term, securing 89.62 per cent of the votes.

On 10 November, the newly elected Chamber of Deputies held its first session and re-elected Mr. Fouad Mebazaâ (RCD) as its new Speaker.

Note:

Under the current Constitution and the electoral law, presidential candidates need to be nominated by 30 members of the Chamber of Deputies or 30 presidents of municipal councils. Based on the constitutional amendments of July 2008, the incumbent elected leaders of all recognized political parties were allowed to run for the presidency in 2009 without any nomination, provided that they had served in the post of party leader for at least two consecutive years. These amendments applied only to the 2009 presidential elections.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	4,974,707	
Voters	4,447,388	89.40 %
Blank or invalid ballot papers	8,891	
Valid votes	4,438,497	

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Votes	% votes	Seats
Democratic Constitutional Rally (RCD)	3,754,559	84.59	161
Democratic Socialist Movement (MDS)	205,374	4.63	16
Popular Unity Party (PUP)	150,639	3.39	12
Unionist Democratic Union (UDU)	113,773	2.56	9
Social Liberal Party (PSL)	99,468	2.24	8
Green Party for Progress (PVP)	74,185	1.67	6
Ettajdid Movement	22,206	0.50	2
Total			214

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	155	
Women	59	27.57 %
Total	214	

► **Distribution of seats according to profession**

	Seats
Education profession	66
Civil service and local authority administration	46
Physician, dentist	26
Architect, surveyor, engineer	18
Finance, management or business	16
Legal profession	12
Journalism, broadcasting, media	4
Others	26
Total	214

► **Distribution of seats according to age**

21 to 30 years	6
31 to 40 years	23
41 to 50 years	59
51 to 60 years	96
61 to 70 years	25
Over 70 years	5
Total	214

URUGUAY

House of Representatives

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Asamblea General / General Assembly
Structure of Parliament Chamber	Bicameral Cámara de Representantes / House of Representatives
Number of members	99 directly elected
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	25 October 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

19 multi-member (at least 2 seats) constituencies corresponding to the country's departments.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list proportional representation system using the simple quotient and highest average formula for remainders.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as the titular members.

Voting is compulsory, unjustified abstention being punishable by a fine.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Uruguayan citizenship

- presence in country on polling day

Disqualifications: mental illness, conviction for criminal offence

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 25 years

- Uruguayan citizenship by birth or naturalization for at least 5 years

- full possession of civil rights

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- judges
- prosecuting attorneys
- police officials
- directors of national companies
- members of the armed forces on active duty

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- lists of candidates must be submitted by political parties to the national Electoral Court at least 20 days prior to the elections

Background and Outcome of the Elections

At stake in the 2009 elections were all 99 seats in the House of Representatives and the 30 seats in the Senate. They were held in parallel with the presidential elections and two referenda: one on whether to repeal the amnesty law concerning human rights abuses committed during military rule between 1973 and 1985 and another on allowing voters abroad to use postal ballots.

In the previous elections held in October 2004, the Broad Front (Frente Amplio, FA) coalition - comprising the Progressive Encounter, the Broad Front and the New Majority - took 53 seats in the House of Representatives and 17 in the Senate. The FA's victory effectively ended 170 years of political control by the National Party (PN) and the Colorado Party (PC). The former took 34 seats in the House and 10 in the Senate, while the latter won 10 and three seats respectively. The Independent Party (PI) took the two remaining seats in the House of Representatives. The FA candidate, Mr. Tabaré Vázquez, won the run-off presidential elections in November 2004.

Upon assuming office in March 2005, Mr. Vázquez implemented major public works, including the construction of a new airport, and distributed personal computers to school children. Despite the global economic crisis, the country's economy remained stable. Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to rise by 1.2 per cent in 2009.

In March 2009, the House of Representatives approved a law to increase the percentage of women on the candidates' lists for elections at all levels. However, it will only apply as of the parliamentary elections due in 2014 (see note).

In the 2009 elections, the FA endorsed Senator José Mujica as its presidential

candidate. A former member of the rebel Tupamaros National Liberation Movement (MLN), he was challenged by former president Luis Alberto Lacalle (PN) and Mr. Pedro Bordaberry (PC). Mr. Bordaberry is the son of former president Juan María Bordaberry, who ceded control of the government to the military in 1973 and was arrested in November 2006 in connection with the 1976 assassination of two legislators in Buenos Aires.

The FA pledged to solve housing problems, create jobs and fight poverty. Mr. Mujica, who advocates a simple life, ran on an anti-consumerism platform. He used public transport during the election campaign. Thanks to his popularity, the FA reportedly enjoyed increasing support from the youth, the poor and the liberal classes.

The PN pledged to work for security, employment and independence. It also promised to remove the income tax introduced by the FA government.

PC leader Bordaberry promised lower personal tax burden and promised to establish a merit-based pay system.

Although voting is compulsory, only 89.91 per cent of the 2.6 million registered voters cast their ballot.

The FA retained the majority in both chambers, taking 50 seats in the House of Representatives and 16 in the Senate. The PN took 30 and nine seats respectively. The PC followed with 17 and five. The PI, led by Mr. Pablo Mieres, retained two seats in the House of Representatives. Fourteen women were elected to the House of Representatives and four to the Senate.

Neither referendum received the required majority: 47 per cent of the voters supported the abolition of the amnesty law while 36 per cent supported the postal ballot for overseas citizens.

No candidate won the required majority in the presidential elections to be elected in the first round. The run-off elections between Mr. Mujica (FA) and Mr. Lacalle (PN), backed by the PC, were held on 29 November. Mr. Mujica (FA) was elected with over 52 per cent of the votes.

On 15 February 2010, the newly elected members were sworn in. The House of Representatives elected Ms. Ivonne Passada (FA) as its new Speaker for one year. The Senate elected Ms. Lucía Topolansky (FA), wife of the President-elect Mujica, as its President for a period of 15 February to 1 March

2010. It was the first time that both chambers in Uruguay were led by female presiding officers.

On 1 March, Mr. Mujica (FA) was sworn in as the country's President along with his deputy, Mr. Danilo Astori (FA). The latter assumes the post of Senate President for five years.

Note:

Party lists must comprise candidates of both sexes in every three slots from the beginning to the end of the list, or at least in the first 15 slots of the list. This rule applies to both the list of titular and substitute members. In the electoral districts used for the House of Representatives where only two seats are being contested, the two titular candidates must include one man and one woman. The government promulgated the law on 13 April 2009, but it will only apply to the parliamentary elections due in 2014.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	2,563,250	
Voters	2,304,686	89.91 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Broad Front (FA)	50
National Party (PN)	30
Colorado Party	17
Independent Party (PI)	2
Total	99

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	85	
Women	14	14.14 %
Total	99	

URUGUAY

Senate

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Asamblea General / General Assembly
Structure of Parliament	Bicameral
Chamber	Cámara de Senadores / Senate
Number of members	31 members - 30 directly elected - one ex officio member (the Vice-President of the Republic)
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	25 October 2009

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all elective seats in the Senate on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system

▶ **Constituencies**

1 multi-member (30 seats) national-wide constituency.

▶ **Voting system: Proportional**

Party-list proportional representation system based on the simple quotient.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as the titular members.

Voting is compulsory, unjustified abstention being punishable by a fine.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Uruguayan citizenship

- presence in country on polling day

Disqualifications: mental illness, conviction for criminal offence

▶ **Eligibility**

- age: 30 years

- Uruguayan citizenship by birth or naturalization for at least 7 years

- full possession of civil rights

▶ **Incompatibilities**

- judges
- prosecuting attorneys
- police officials
- directors of national companies
- members of the armed forces on active duty

▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- lists of candidates must be submitted by political parties to the national Electoral Court at least 20 days prior to the elections.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

At stake in the 2009 elections were all 99 seats in the House of Representatives and the 30 seats in the Senate. They were held in parallel with the presidential elections and two referenda: one on whether to repeal the amnesty law concerning human rights abuses committed during military rule between 1973 and 1985 and another on allowing voters abroad to use postal ballots.

In the previous elections held in October 2004, the Broad Front (Frente Amplio, FA) coalition - comprising the Progressive Encounter, the Broad Front and the New Majority - took 53 seats in the House of Representatives and 17 in the Senate. The FA's victory effectively ended 170 years of political control by the National Party (PN) and the Colorado Party (PC). The former took 34 seats in the House and 10 in the Senate, while the latter won 10 and three seats respectively. The Independent Party (PI) took the two remaining seats in the House of Representatives. The FA candidate, Mr. Tabaré Vázquez, won the run-off presidential elections in November 2004.

Upon assuming office in March 2005, Mr. Vázquez implemented major public works, including the construction of a new airport, and distributed personal computers to school children. Despite the global economic crisis, the country's economy remained stable. Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to rise by 1.2 per cent in 2009.

In March 2009, the House of Representatives approved a law to increase the percentage of women on the candidates' lists for elections at all levels. However, it will only apply as of the parliamentary elections due in 2014 (see note).

In the 2009 elections, the FA endorsed Senator José Mujica as its presidential

candidate. A former member of the rebel Tupamaros National Liberation Movement (MLN), he was challenged by former president Luis Alberto Lacalle (PN) and Mr. Pedro Bordaberry (PC). Mr. Bordaberry is the son of former president Juan María Bordaberry, who ceded control of the government to the military in 1973 and was arrested in November 2006 in connection with the 1976 assassination of two legislators in Buenos Aires.

The FA pledged to solve housing problems, create jobs and fight poverty. Mr. Mujica, who advocates a simple life, ran on an anti-consumerism platform. He used public transport during the election campaign. Thanks to his popularity, the FA reportedly enjoyed increasing support from the youth, the poor and the liberal classes.

The PN pledged to work for security, employment and independence. It also promised to remove the income tax introduced by the FA government.

PC leader Bordaberry promised lower personal tax burden and promised to establish a merit-based pay system.

Although voting is compulsory, only 89.91 per cent of the 2.6 million registered voters cast their ballot.

The FA retained the majority in both chambers, taking 50 seats in the House of Representatives and 16 in the Senate. The PN took 30 and nine seats respectively. The PC followed with 17 and five. The PI, led by Mr. Pablo Mieres, retained two seats in the House of Representatives. Fourteen women were elected to the House of Representatives and four to the Senate.

Neither referendum received the required majority: 47 per cent of the voters supported the abolition of the amnesty law while 36 per cent supported the postal ballot for overseas citizens.

No candidate won the required majority in the presidential elections to be elected in the first round. The run-off elections between Mr. Mujica (FA) and Mr. Lacalle (PN), backed by the PC, were held on 29 November. Mr. Mujica (FA) was elected with over 52 per cent of the votes.

On 15 February 2010, the newly elected members were sworn in. The House of Representatives elected Ms. Ivonne Passada (FA) as its new Speaker for one year. The Senate elected Ms. Lucía Topolansky (FA), wife of the President-elect Mujica, as its President for a period of 15 February to 1 March

2010. It was the first time that both chambers in Uruguay were led by female presiding officers.

On 1 March, Mr. Mujica (FA) was sworn in as the country's President along with his deputy, Mr. Danilo Astori (FA). The latter assumes the post of Senate President for five years.

Note:

Party lists must comprise candidates of both sexes in every three slots from the beginning to the end of the list, or at least in the first 15 slots of the list. This rule applies to both the list of titular and substitute members. In the electoral districts used for the House of Representatives where only two seats are being contested, the two titular candidates must include one man and one woman. The government promulgated the law on 13 April 2009, but it will only apply to the parliamentary elections due in 2014.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout

Number of registered electors	2,563,250	
Voters	2,304,685	89.91 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats
Broad Front (FA)	16
Nationalist Party (PN)	9
Colorado Party	5
Total	30

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

Men	26	
Women	4	13.33 %
Total	30	

UZBEKISTAN

Legislative Chamber

Parliament name (generic / translated)	Oliy Majlis / Supreme Assembly
Structure of Parliament Chamber	Bicameral Qonunchilik palatasi / Legislative Chamber
Number of members	150 members - 135 directly elected - 15 indirectly elected by the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan.
Term of House	5 years
Date of elections	27 December 2009 & 10 January 2010

Timing and scope of renewal

Elections were held for all elective seats in the Legislative Chamber on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Electoral system▶ **Constituencies**

135 single-member "territorial" constituencies.

▶ **Voting system: Majority**

Majority vote in two rounds.

In each constituency, at least 33% of the electorate must participate for the poll to be valid and candidates are declared elected if they obtain more than 50% of the votes cast. Should one of these conditions be missing, a second round of elections takes place between the two leading candidates; a simple majority then suffices.

Vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections.

Voting is not compulsory.

▶ **Voter requirements**

- age: 18 years

- Uzbek citizens residing in Uzbekistan or former USSR

▶ **Eligibility**

- Uzbek citizenship

- Age: 25 years by day of election

- Full-time residency in Uzbekistan for at least 5 years.

- ▶ **Incompatibilities**

- members of the other chamber

- ▶ **Candidacy requirements**

- candidatures must be submitted by registered parties
 - 30 per cent of candidates in each party list must be women.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The December 2009 elections were the first to be held under a new electoral law adopted a year earlier. The statutory number of members of the Legislative Chamber rose from 120 to 150, 135 of whom are directly elected. Their candidatures need to be endorsed by a political party. Previously, independent candidates or candidates from Citizens' initiative groups were also allowed to run. President Islam Karimov, who has been in power since 1990, argued that such a system would enhance the role of political parties. The remaining 15 seats are reserved for the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan (EMU). The EMU, widely believed to be a pro-government party, was established in August 2008. It holds separate indirect elections to elect representatives to the Legislative Chamber.

In the previous elections held in December 2004, the Liberal Democratic Party (UzLiDeP) - officially known as the "Movement of Entrepreneurs and Business People-the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan" - took 41 of the 120 seats at stake. The People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (PDPU, formerly the Communist Party), followed with 28. The Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, "Milliy tiklanish" (national revival), the Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, "Adolat" (justice) and the National Democratic Party, "Fidorkorlar", took 11, 10 and nine seats respectively. The Citizens' group nominees took the remainder. In June 2008, the PDPU absorbed the Fidorkorlar.

All parties in the outgoing legislature had nominated President Karimov for the presidential elections held in 2007. There are no officially recognized opposition parties in the country although a few opposition parties operate in exile.

A total of 517 candidates, including 165 women, were vying for seats in the 2009 elections. Four parties represented in the outgoing legislature backed over 120 candidates each. The UzLiDeP backed 135 candidates while the

PDPU supported 134. The Milliy tiklanish party and the Adolat party endorsed 125 and 123 candidates respectively.

The UzLiDep pledged to continue reforms to strengthen the rule of law and the market economy. The PDPU pledged to increase its role in the reforms in the country, form a "socially oriented market economy" and modernize the country. It remains the country's largest party in terms of membership, which has reportedly halved in the last ten years.

The outgoing Speaker, Ms. Dilorom Toshmuhammadova, was backed by the Adolat party for a constituency in the capital, Tashkent. The party pledged to adopt an anti-corruption law and establish a body tasked with protecting children's rights. It also promised to introduce an e-government system in order to improve communication between citizens and the government. The Milliy tiklanish party vowed to make national revival a reality, preserve national traditions and values and improve the spiritual and moral education of citizens. It also promised to enhance public scrutiny of government decision-making.

According to the election commission, 87.76 per cent of the 17.2 million registered voters turned out at the polls on 27 December. The EMU held indirect elections on the same day.

Over 270 observers from 36 countries and four international observer missions monitored the polls. The latter included the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Executive Committee. The OSCE/ODIHR did not send a full-fledged observer mission, arguing that the current electoral system in Uzbekistan did not offer the electorate a genuine choice. The CIS mission said that the elections had been "free and open" and demonstrated the country's "political maturity".

A total of 96 candidates, including 19 women, obtained the required 50 per cent of the votes to be elected in the first round.

Run-off elections for the remaining 39 seats were held on 10 January 2010. The final results gave 53 seats to the UzLiDeP. The PDPU and the Milliy tiklanish party won 32 and 31 seats respectively while the Adolat party took 19 seats. In all, 33 women were elected, of whom two by the EMU.

The newly elected Legislative Chamber held its first session on 22 January

2010 and re-elected Ms. Dilorom Toshmuhammadova of the Adolat party as its Speaker.

The Senate was also renewed in January 2010. On 26 January, it re-appointed Mr. Sobirov Ilgizar Matyakubovich as its President.

Election results and statistics

▶ Voter turnout


	Round 1	Round 2
Number of registered electors	17,215,700	4,969,547
Voters	15,108,000	87.76 % 3,960,876 79.70 %

▶ Distribution of seats according to political group

	Seats (Round 1)	Seats (Round 2)	Grand total
Liberal Democratic Party (UzLiDeP)	33	20	53
People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (PDPU)	22	10	32
Democratic Party of Uzbekistan "Milliy tiklanish"	25	6	31
Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan "Adolat"	16	3	19
Total	96	39	135

▶ Distribution of seats according to sex

	Directly elected	Indirectly elected	Total	
Men	104	13	117	
Women	31	2	33	22.00 %
Total	135	15	150	



Published annually in English and French since 1967, the *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections* reports on all national legislative elections held throughout the world during a given year. It includes information on the electoral system, the background and outcome of each election as well as statistics on the results, distribution of votes and distribution of seats according to political group, sex and age.

The information contained in the *Chronicle* can also be found in the IPU's database on national parliaments, PARLINE. PARLINE is accessible on the IPU web site (<http://www.ipu.org/parline>) and is continually updated.

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