

**Fast Facts**  
**Women Heads of State or Government** (pages 1-3)  
**Women in the Executive Branch – World Averages** (page 4)

**Women Heads of State or Government**  
**1945 to March 2006**

Year	Sovereign States	Women Heads of State or Government	Percentage
1945	68	0	0
1955	81	0	0
1965	122	1 (Sri Lanka)	0.8%
1975	147	4 (Argentina, Central African Republic, India and Sri Lanka)	2.72%
1985	162	6 (Dominica, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, United Kingdom, and Yugoslavia)	3.7%
1995	187	12 (Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Dominica, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Turkey).	6.4%
2000 (May)	190	9 (Bangladesh, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, New Zealand, Panama, San Marino, and Sri Lanka (both Head of State and Head of Government).	4.7%
2005 (January)	191	8 (Bangladesh, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, New Zealand, Mozambique, Philippines and Sri Lanka).	4%
2006 (March)	191	11 (Bangladesh, Chile, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Liberia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe).	5.7%

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union, Women in Politics: 60 years in retrospect (2006), Page 16.

Inter-Parliamentary Union Notes: Queens and Governor Generals are not included in this list.

The percentages are valid strictly for the year considered, however, women may have held such positions in other years during the periods considered.

## A CHRONOLOGY OF WOMEN Heads of State or Government: 1945 – February 2006 ELECTED WOMEN PRESIDENTS

- ◆ **Argentina** Maria Estela Martínez de Perón 07.1974 - 03.1976
- ◆ **Bolivia** Lydia Gueiler Tejada 11.1979 - 07.1980
- ◆ **Iceland** Vigdis Finnbogadóttir 08.1980 - 08.1996
- ◆ **San Marino** Maria Lea Pedini Angelini 04 - 10.1981
- ◆ **Malta** Agatha Barbara 02.1982 - 02.1987
- ◆ **San Marino** Gloriana Ranocchini 04 - 10.1984
- ◆ **Philippines** Corazon Aquino 02. 1986 - 06.1992
- ◆ **San Marino** Gloriana Ranocchini 10.1989 - 04.1990
- ◆ **Haiti** Ertha Pascal Trouillot 03.1990 - 02.1991
- ◆ **Nicaragua** Violeta Barrios de Chamorro 04.1990 - 01.1997
- ◆ **Ireland** Mary Robinson 12.1990 - 11.1997
- ◆ **San Marino** Edda Ceccoli 10.1991 - 04.1992
- ◆ **San Marino** Patrizia Busignani 04 - 10.1993
- ◆ **Sri Lanka** Chandrika Kumaratunge 11.1994 - 11.1999
- ◆ **Liberia** Ruth Perry 11.1996 - 08.1997
- ◆ **Guyana** Janet Jagan 12.1997 - 08.1999
- ◆ **Ireland** Mary McAleese 11.1997 - currently (02.2006)
- ◆ **Switzerland** Ruth Dreifuss 01.1999 - 12.1999
- ◆ **San Marino** Rosa Zafferani 04 - 10.1999
- ◆ **Latvia** Vaira Vike-Freiberga 06.1999 - currently (02.2006)
- ◆ **Panama** Mireya Elisa Moscoso de Arias 09.1999 - 09.2004
- ◆ **Sri Lanka** Chandrika Kumaratunge 12.1999 - 11.2005
- ◆ **Finland** Tanja Kaarina Halonen 03.2000 - currently (02.2006)
- ◆ **San Marino** Maria Domenica Michelotti 04 - 10.2000
- ◆ **Philippines** Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo 01.2001 - currently (02.2006)
- ◆ **Indonesia** Megwati Sukarnoputri 07.2001 - 10.2004
- ◆ **San Marino** Valeria Ciavatta 10.2003 - 03.2004
- ◆ **Liberia** Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf 01.2006 - currently (02.2006)

Note: In January 2006, Michelle Bachelet was elected president of **Chile**. She assumes her position in March 2006. The title of Honorary President was conferred posthumously on Soong Ching Ling, former Vice-President of the **People's Republic of China**. Seven women served as Acting Head of State: **Mongolia**, Suhbaataryn Yanjmaa, 09.1953 – 07.1954; **Guinea-Bissau**, Carmen Periera, 14.05.1984 – 16.05.1984; **Germany (Dem. Rep.)** Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, 04.1990-10.1990; **Ecuador**, Rodalia Serrano de Cordova, 09.02.1997 – 11.02.1997; **Serbia**, Natasa Micic 12.2002-02.2004, **Georgia**, Nino Burdschanadse, 11.2003 – 01.2004; **Austria**, Barbara Prammer, 06.07.2004 – 08.07.2004.

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union, Women in Politics: 60 years in retrospect (2006), Page 15.

## WOMEN PRIME MINISTERS (February 2006)

1. **Sri Lanka** Sirimavo Bandaranaike 07.1960 - 03.1965
2. **India** Indira Gandhi 01.1966 - 03.1977
3. **Israel** Golda Meir 03.1969 - 04.1974
4. **Sri Lanka** Sirimavo Bandaranaike 05.1970 - 07.1977
5. **Central African Republic** Elisabeth Domitien 01.1975 - 04.1976
6. **United Kingdom** Margaret Thatcher 05.1979 - 11.1990
7. **Portugal** Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo 08.1979 - 01.1980
8. **India** Indira Gandhi 01.1980 - 10.1984
9. **Dominica** Mary Eugenia Charles 07.1980 - 06.1995
10. **Norway** Gro Harlem Brundtland 02 - 10.1981
11. **Yugoslavia** Milka Planinc 05.1982 - 05.1986
12. **Norway** Gro Harlem Brundtland 05.1986 - 10.1989
13. **Pakistan** Benazir Bhutto 12.1988 - 08.1990
14. **Lithuania** Kazimiera Prunskiene 03.1990 - 01.1991
15. **Norway** Gro Harlem Brundtland 11.1990 - 10.1996
16. **Bangladesh** Khaleda Zia 03.1991 - 03.1996
17. **France** Edith Cresson 05.1991 - 04.1992
18. **Poland** Hanna Suchocka 07.1992 - 10.1993
19. **Canada** Kim Campbell 06.1993 - 11.1993
20. **Turkey** Tansu Çiller 06.1993 - 07.1996
21. **Burundi** Sylvie Kinigi 07.1993 - 02.1994
22. **Rwanda** Agathe Uwilingiyimana 07.1993 - 04.1994
23. **Pakistan** Benazir Bhutto 10.1993 - 11.1996
24. **Sri Lanka** Chandrika Kumaratunge 08.1994 - 11.1994
25. **Bulgaria** Reneta Indzhova 10.1994 - 01.1995
26. **Sri Lanka** Sirimavo Bandaranaike 11.1994 - 08.2000
27. **Haiti** Claudette Werleigh 11.1995 - 02.1996
28. **Bangladesh** Sheikh Hasina Wajed 06.1996 - 07.2001
29. **Guyana** Janet Jagan 03.1997 - 12.1997
30. **New Zealand** Jenny Shipley 12.1997 - 12.1999
31. **Lithuania** Irina Degutienė (acting) 4-18.04.1999
32. **Mongolia** Nyam-Osoriyn Tuyaa (acting) 22 - 30.07.1999
33. **New Zealand** Helen Elizabeth Clark 12.1999 - currently (02.2006)
34. **Senegal** Madior Boye 05.2001 - 11.2002
35. **Bangladesh** Khaleda Zia 10.2001 - currently (02.2006)
36. **Dem. People's Rep. of Korea** Chang Sang 11.07.2002 - 31.07.2002
37. **Saõ Tome and Principe** Maria das Neves Ceita Batista de Sousa 09.2002 - 09.2004
38. **Finland** Anneli Jaateenmaki 04.2003 - 06.2003
39. **Peru** Beatriz Merino 06.2003 - 12.2003
40. **Mozambique** Luisa Diogo 02.2004 - currently (02.2006)
41. **T.F.Y.R. of Macedonia** Radmila Sekerinska (acting) 05.2004 - 06.2004; 11.2004 - 12.2004
42. **Ukraine** Yulia Tymoshenko 02.2005 - 09.2005
43. **Saõ Tome and Principe** Maria do Carmo Silveira 06.2005 - currently (02.2006)
44. **Germany** Angela Merkel 11.2005 - currently (02.2006)

Chang Sang of the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** was nominated on 11.07.2002 by the President to become the Prime Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, however she was not ratified by the parliament, and thus served only till 31.07.2002. Beatriz Merino served as the President of the Council of Ministers of **Peru** 06.2003 – 12.2003.

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union, Women in Politics: 60 years in retrospect (2006), Page 15.

## WOMEN IN THE EXECUTIVE WORLD AVERAGES January 2005

- In January 2005, 14.3% of the world's cabinet ministers were women.
- Women held 858 Ministerial portfolios in 183 countries.
- Sweden had the highest number of women ministers in the world ever, at 52.4 per cent, followed by Spain, with 50.0 per cent.
- Of the 858 ministerial posts women held the following portfolios:
  - 83 women (9.7%) held portfolios related to family, children, youth, disabled, and elderly;
  - 69 women (8.0%) held ministerial portfolios related to social affairs;
  - 63 women (7.3%) held ministerial portfolios related to women's affairs;
  - 63 women (7.3%) held ministerial portfolios related to education;
  - 60 women (7%) held ministerial portfolios related to the environment and energy.
- Women were least represented in portfolios related to parliamentary affairs, population and information.
- Only 12 women held defence portfolios, 20 on finance and the budget and 25 on foreign affairs thus further demonstrating that the world's division of labour in the executive branch and politics remains highly gendered.

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union, Women in Politics: 60 years in retrospect (2006), Page 24.