



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CONSTITUTIONS, ELECTORAL LAWS AND OTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATING
TO THE FRANCHISE OF WOMEN AND THEIR ELIGIBILITY TO
PUBLIC OFFICE AND FUNCTIONS

(Memorandum submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
resolution 120 (VI) of the Economic and Social Council)

1. By its resolution 120 (VI) of 3 March 1948, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary General:

"To bring up to date, including reference to action taken by Governments since the signing of the Charter, the memorandum supplementing his preliminary report on the political rights of women and their eligibility for public office, and present to the third regular session of the General Assembly, in line with the Resolution submitted by Denmark to the first regular session of the General Assembly on the political rights of women; and

"To circulate similar material annually to Members of the United Nations until all women throughout the world have the same political rights as men."

2. In accordance with this resolution, the memorandum (document E/CN.6/30) was brought up to 15 August 1948 and presented to the third regular session of the General Assembly as document A/619.

3. The present document is a revision of document A/619, and has been brought up to 1 October 1949. It embodies provisions taken from constitutions, electoral laws or other legal instruments, and is an attempt to show in as concentrated a form as possible the legal provisions which grant, restrict or deny to women the right to vote and to be elected to public office.

4. As a rule, constitutional provisions have been given priority in the choice of the following texts. Electoral laws or other legal texts, if available, have been quoted in addition, whenever this seemed necessary for the understanding. Regardless of the source of each text, provisions concerning the right to vote precede those concerning the right to be elected for each country.

5. Whenever legal instruments have been put out of operation in a country, this fact is mentioned and the latest texts which were in force are quoted or summarized in notes.
6. Since the issuance of documents A/619, the Secretariat was informed that Chile and Liberia extended to women the right to vote in national elections and to be elected. Moreover, subject to certain qualifications not required for men, women's suffrage was introduced in Syria.
7. The table annexed to document A/619 was revised and divided into the following five parts:
 - I. Countries where women may vote in all elections on an equal basis with men.
 - II. Countries where women may vote in all elections subject to certain qualifications not imposed on men.
 - III. Countries where women may vote in local elections only.
 - IV. Countries where women have no political rights.
 - V. Countries in which action has been taken since 1945 (th signing of the United Nations Charter), extending full or limited political rights to women.

Countries in which there are no electoral rights are listed in Table IV with relevant information in a footnote.

Afghanistan - Act of 1931 regarding elections to the National Council

Article 3. Electors shall satisfy the following conditions:

(a) They shall be Afghan subjects; (b) they shall be more than twenty years of age; (c) they shall be domiciled in the electoral district or have been resident therein for not less than one year immediately preceding the elections.

Article 6. Candidates for election, that is to say, deputies, shall satisfy the following conditions: (a) they shall be Afghan subjects; (b) if they are of foreign origin, they shall have been resident in Afghanistan for ten years since the acquisition of Afghan nationality; (c) they shall, as far as possible, be able to read and write; (d) they shall be not less than twenty-five years of age for the first four elections and not less than thirty years of age for elections thereafter, and shall be not more than seventy years of age; (e) they shall be known for their honesty and probity.

NOTE: Women are not allowed to vote or to be elected in Afghanistan.

Albania - Constitution of 15 March 1946

Article 14. All citizens who have reached the age of eighteen are eligible to elect and be elected to all organs of government, regardless of sex, nationality, race, creed, cultural level or residence ...

Argentina - Women's Suffrage Act of 23 September 1947

Article 1. Argentine women shall have the same political rights and be subject to the same duties as those granted to or imposed on Argentine men by law.

Article 2. Female aliens resident in Argentina shall have the same political rights, if any, and be subject to the same obligations as are granted to or imposed on male aliens by law.

Article 3. Women shall be subject to the same electoral law as men and shall be provided with a similar civic card as a document of identification necessary for all civic and electoral acts.

Australia - The Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 - 1940, as amended in 1946 and 1948

39. (1) Subject to the disqualifications set out in this Part, all persons not under twenty-one years of age, whether male or female, married or unmarried ... shall be entitled to enrolment subject to the provisions of Part VII of this Act.

(3) All persons whose names are on the roll for any Electoral Division shall, subject to this Act, be entitled to vote at elections of Members of the Senate for the State of which the Division forms part and at elections of Members of the House of Representatives for the Division ...

The Constitution of the Commonwealth, 1900

34. Until the Parliament otherwise provides, the qualifications of a member of the House of Representatives shall be as follows: (i) He must be of the full age of 21 years, and must be an elector entitled to vote at the election of members of the House of Representatives, or a person qualified to become such elector, and must have been for three years at least a resident within the limits of the Commonwealth as existing at the time when he is chosen; (ii) He must be a subject of the Queen,^{1/} either natural-born or for at least five years naturalized under a law of the United Kingdom, or of a Colony which has become or becomes a State, or of the Commonwealth, or of a State.

41. No adult person who has or acquires a right to vote at elections for the more numerous House of the Parliament of a state shall, while the right continues, be prevented by any law of the Commonwealth from voting at elections for either House of the Parliament of the Commonwealth.

Austria - Federal Constitutional Act, 1929 text

Article 26 (1) - The National Council is elected by the population of the Federation in accordance with the principles of proportional representation and upon the basis of the equal, direct, secret and personal suffrage of men and women who have completed their twenty-first year ... Voting is compulsory at elections in the federal provinces in which this is required by provincial law.

(4) - Every elector who has completed his twenty-ninth year on 1 January of the year in which the election is held is entitled to stand for election.

Belgium - Electoral Code of 12 August 1928 as amended by Act of 27 March 1948

Article 1. In order to qualify as an elector in parliamentary elections a person must: 1. be a Belgian citizen by birth or be fully naturalized; 2. have attained the age of twenty-one years; 3. have been domiciled in the same commune for not less than six months. Each elector is entitled to one vote only.

Article 2. Women shall be eligible to vote under the same conditions of age, nationality and domicile.

Article 223. In order to be eligible to the Chamber of Representatives a person must: 1. be Belgian by birth or fully naturalized; 2. be in possession of his civil and political rights; 3. have attained the age of 25 years; 4. be domiciled in Belgium.

^{1/} See Section 2: The provisions of this Act referring to the Queen shall extend to Her Majesty's heirs and successors in the sovereignty of the United Kingdom.

Article 224. In order to be elected a senator a person must: 1. Be Belgian by birth or fully naturalized; 2. Be in possession of his civil and political rights; 3. Be domiciled in Belgium; 4. Have attained 40 years of age.

Bolivia - Constitution of 23 November 1945, as amended in 1947

Article 42. Citizenship consists in: first, contributing either as a voter or as a person elected to office to the establishment or exercise of public powers; secondly, being eligible to public office without other requisites than that of capacity, save for the exceptions established by law.

Article 43. Conditions of citizenship are: first, to be a Bolivian; secondly, to be more than 21 years of age; thirdly, to be able to read and write, and fourthly, to be inscribed in the civic register.

Article 45. In the formation of municipal governments, the rights of election and eligibility of Bolivian women is recognized, under the same conditions as for men, besides the citizenship rights referred to in part 2 of Article 42 of this Constitution.

NOTE: Women are not allowed to vote in national elections in Bolivia.

Supreme Decree of 4 October 1947 implementing the decree calling
Municipal Elections

Article 1. The Notaries Public shall open special registers for women.

Article 2. The requirements for the registration of women shall be those prescribed by Article 4 of the Electoral Act, with the exception of the military service book, which shall be replaced by the personal identity card. The disqualifications shall be the same as those prescribed in Articles 5 and 6 of the same Act.

NOTE: These are the same disqualifications as those prescribed for men.

Brazil - Constitution of 18 September 1946

Article 133. It is obligatory for Brazilians of both sexes to register and to vote, save the exceptions defined by law.

Article 38. ... A member of the National Congress must 1. Be a Brazilian . . . 2. Be in full enjoyment of political rights; 3. Have attained twenty-one years of age for the Chamber of Deputies and thirty-five years for the Federal Senate.

Bulgaria - Constitution of 4 December 1947

Article 3. All citizens of the People's Republic who are above 18 years of age, irrespective of sex, national origin, race, religion, education, profession, social status or material situation, with the exception of those under judicial disability or deprived of their civil and political rights, are eligible to vote and to be elected.

/All persons

All persons serving in the ranks of the Bulgarian People's Army can vote and can be elected on the same basis as all other Bulgarian citizens.

Burma - Constitution of 24 September 1947

Section 76 (4). No laws shall be enacted or continued placing any citizen under disability or incapacity for membership in the Parliament on the ground of sex, race or religion or disqualifying any citizen from voting at elections to the Parliament on any such ground ...

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic - Constitution of 19 February 1937

Article 97. Women in the Byelorussian SSR are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, governmental, cultural and other public activity.

Article 112. Women have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with men.

Canada - Dominion Elections Act of 1 July 1938 as amended in 1944 and 1948

Article 14 (1). Except as hereinafter provided, every person in Canada, man or woman, is entitled to have his or her name included in the list of electors prepared for the polling division in which he or she was ordinarily resident on the date of the issue of the writ ordering an election in the electoral district, and is qualified to vote in such polling division if he or she (a) is of the full age of twenty-one years or will attain such age on or before polling day at such election; (b) is a British subject by birth or naturalization; (c) has been ordinarily resident in Canada for the twelve months immediately preceding polling day at such election ...

Article 19. Except as this Act otherwise provides, any person, man or woman, who (a) is a British subject, (b) is a qualified elector under this Act and (c) is of the full age of twenty-one years, may be a candidate at a Dominion election.

Ceylon - The Ceylon (Parliamentary Elections) Order in Council 1946

4. No person shall be qualified to have his name entered or retained in any register of electors in any year if such person -- a) is not a British subject, or is by virtue of his own act, under any acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience or adherence to a foreign Power or State; (b) was less than twenty-one years of age on the first day of June of that year; [/certain other reasons for disqualification are listed/]

6. Any person not otherwise disqualified shall be qualified to have his name entered in a register of electors in any year if he is able to read and write English, Sinhalese or Tamil and if he has or holds one of the following qualifications [/certain property qualifications are listed/]

28. Any person eligible for election as a member of Parliament may be nominated as a candidate for election.

Chile - Constitution of 18 September 1925

"Article 7. Chileans who may have attained twenty-one years of age, who know how to read and write, and are inscribed in the electoral registers are citizens with the right of suffrage ..."

NOTE: The electoral law of 9 February 1929 was modified by an Act of 9 January 1949 (published in Diario Oficial of 14 January 1949). The new Act provides that there shall be an electoral register for men and an electoral register for women, for the elections to the Presidency of the Republic, the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. Article 15 is supplemented by a new paragraph providing that the municipal register shall have in the future a column in which the sex and nationality of the registered person shall be noted. Other modifications were made to the effect to eliminate the word male wherever the right to vote was restricted by this qualification. The Act of 9 January 1949 thus established the right of women to vote in Chilean national elections, effective as of 14 May 1949.

"Article 27. - Constitution. To be elected Deputy or Senator it is necessary to have the requisites of citizenship with the right of suffrage and never to have been sentenced for an offence involving the loss of civic rights. Senators, in addition, must have attained thirty-five years of age."

China - Constitution of 1 January 1947

"Article 130. Any citizen of the Republic of China, having attained the age of twenty years, shall have the right of election in accordance with law. Unless otherwise provided by the Constitution and laws, any citizen having attained the age of twenty-three years shall have the right of being elected in accordance with law."

Article 134. In the various kinds of elections, the quotas of women to be elected shall be fixed, and measures pertaining thereto shall be prescribed by law.

Colombia - Constitution of 4 August 1886

Article 15. The status of active citizenship is a prior indispensable condition for voting, being elected to office, and discharging public office that carry authority or jurisdiction. The function of voting and the capacity of being popularly elected are reserved to males.

Costa Rica - Decree No. 500 of 18 January 1946

Article 1. All male Costa Ricans by birth or naturalization, who have reached the age of twenty, or eighteen if they are married or are professors, in any branch of learning, are electors ...

Article 4. Each elector who can read and write is eligible for election to the offices mentioned in the preceding article ...

NOTE: These offices are those of the President of the Republic, members of the Congress, of a national Constituent Assembly etc.

Cuba - Constitution of 5 July 1940

Article 97. Universal equal and secret suffrage is established as a right, duty and function of all Cuban citizens. This function shall be obligatory.

Article 99. All Cubans of either sex, who have attained twenty years of age, are entitled to vote ...

Article 121. A Senator must: 1. Be a Cuban by birth. 2. Have attained thirty years of age. 3. Be in full enjoyment of his civil and political rights ...

Article 124. A Representative must: 1. Be a Cuban by birth or naturalization, and in the latter case have completed ten years of continuous residence in the Republic from the date of naturalization. 2. Have attained twenty-one years of age. 3. Be in full enjoyment of his civil and political rights ...

Czechoslovakia - Constitution of 9 May 1948

Fundamental Provisions

Article IV (1) The sovereign People discharge the State power through representative bodies which are elected by the People, controlled by the People and accountable to the People.

(2) The franchise to the representative bodies is universal, equal, direct and secret. Every citizen has the right to vote on reaching the age of eighteen. Every citizen may be elected on reaching the age of twenty-one ...

Detailed Provisions

Section 1. All citizens are equal before the law. Men and women shall hold equal position in the family and in the community and shall have equal access to education, and to all professions, offices and honours.

Denmark - Constitution of 5 June 1915

Article 30. Every man and woman who has the rights of citizenship, has completed his or her twenty-fifth year, and is domiciled in the Kingdom has the right to vote for the Folketing ...

Article 34. Every elector for the Folketing who has completed his or her thirty-fifth year and has a permanent residence in his or her appropriate Landsting constituency, is qualified to vote for the Landsting.

Article 31. Every person who under Article 30 is qualified to vote for the Folketing is eligible for election to the Folketing.

Article 35. Every person who is qualified to vote for the Landsting is eligible for election to it when he or she has a permanent residence in his or her appropriate Landsting constituency. ...

Dominican Republic - Constitution of 10 January 1942

Article 9. All Dominicans of either sex, over eighteen years of age, or below that age if they are or have been married, are citizens.

Article 10. Citizens have the following rights: 1. to vote; 2. to be eligible for elective office, subject to the restrictions laid down by this Constitution.

Article 101. A minimum age of 30 years is required to exercise the functions of ... senator, deputy ...

Ecuador - Constitution of 31 December 1946

Article 17. Every Ecuadorian, man or woman, who has completed eighteen years of age, knows how to read and write, and is a citizen, may as a general rule, vote and be elected or appointed to public office.

Article 22. A voter must be in full possession of the rights of citizenship and possess the other qualifications required by law. Subject to these qualifications, the vote in popular elections is obligatory for a man and optional for a woman. The law shall determine the penalty applying to the non-fulfilment of this duty.

Article 44. A Senator must; 1. Be an Ecuadorian by birth and be in full possession of the rights of citizenship ... 3. Have attained 35 years of age."

Article 48. A deputy must: 1. Be an Ecuadorian by birth. 2. Be in full possession of the rights of citizenship. 3. Have completed twenty-five years of age ...

Egypt - Electoral Law of 19 December 1935

Article 1. Every male Egyptian who has attained the age of 21 according to the Gregorian calendar has the right to vote in elections for the Chamber of Deputies; every male Egyptian who has attained the age of 25 according to the Gregorian calendar has the right to vote in elections for the Senate.

Article 23. A member of the Chamber of Deputies must: (1) Have attained 30 years of age according to the Gregorian calendar. (2) Be registered in an electoral list and be able to read and write well.

Article 55. A Senator must: (1) Have attained 40 years of age according to the Gregorian calendar. (2) Belong to one of the following categories [certain categories are listed] (3) Be able to read and write well. The elected Senator must also: (a) Be registered in one of the electoral lists...

El Salvador -

NOTE: The Constitution of 13 August 1886 and the Electoral Act of 1946 have not been in force since early 1949. A new Constitution is being drafted by a commission of five jurists. Earlier texts provided for certain qualifications not required for men. In order to vote, women had to produce proof of being over 25 years of age and of having passed at least the third school grade.

Ethiopia - Constitution of 16 July 1931

NOTE: There are no electoral rights. According to Section 31, the members of the Senate are appointed by the Emperor, from among dignitaries who have served his Empire over a long period of time in the ranks of princes, ministers, judges or chiefs of army.

According to Section 32, provisionally, until the people will themselves be able to elect the members of the Chamber of Deputies, these members shall be chosen by the local chiefs.

Finland - Diet Act of 13 January 1923

Article 6. Every Finnish citizen, man or woman, who before the year in which the election takes place, has attained twenty-one years of age, shall be an elector ...

Article 7. Every elector shall be eligible to become a representative without regard to domicile.

France - Constitution of 27 October 1946

Preamble ... The Law guarantees to women equal rights with men in all domains ...

Article 4. All French citizens and nationals of both sexes who are of age and enjoy civil and political rights, may vote under conditions determined by law."

Act of 1 October 1946 fixing the minimum age of eligibility to the National Assembly

All Frenchman of either sex who have attained 23 years of age can be candidates and be elected to the National Assembly and to any other Assembly or electoral body which is elected by universal and direct suffrage.
Councillors of the Republic Election Act of 23 September 1948.

Article 4. No one may be elected Councillor of the Republic unless he has attained 35 years of age. The reasons for ineligibility and incompatibility shall be the same as in the elections to the National Assembly.

Federal Republic of Germany - Constitution of 23 May 1949

Article 3. All persons are equal before the law. Men and women have equal rights.

No one shall suffer prejudice or enjoy privilege because of sex, origin, race, language, birth, country of origin, creed, or religious or political beliefs.

Article 38. The deputies of the German Bundestag shall be elected in universal, free, equal, direct and secret elections. They shall be representatives of the whole people, not bound to orders and instructions and subject only to their conscience.

Any person who has reached the age of 21 years shall be eligible to vote and any person who has reached the age of 25 years shall be eligible to be elected.

Details shall be regulated by a Federal Act.

NOTE: Corresponding data concerning the "Democratic Republic of Germany" was established after 1 October 1949 (See paragraph 3 of the Introduction) will be reproduced in the next revised edition of this document.

Greece -

NOTE: According to information received through the courtesy of Mr. Alexis Kyrrou, Permanent Representative of Greece, women have not the right to vote in national elections in Greece. In accordance with Law No. 959 of 29 April 1949, all women who have attained twenty-one years of age are entitled to vote in municipal elections; all women who have attained twenty-five years of age are eligible for municipal office. Until 1953, the right to vote shall be granted, as a temporary measure, only to those women who have attained twenty-five years of age; during this transitional period the eligibility of women shall be limited to the office of municipal councillors.

Guatemala - Constitution of 11 March 1945

Article 9. Citizens are: (1) Male Guatemalans who have attained eighteen years of age; (2) Guatemalan women who have attained eighteen years of age and know how to read and write.

The rights and duties inherent in citizenship are: to vote, to be elected and to be a candidate for public office. Suffrage is obligatory for citizens who know how to read and write; optional and secret for women citizens; and optional and public for illiterate citizens.

/All males

All males who have attained eighteen years of age and know how to read and write have the obligation of being inscribed in the civic register within the year in which they obtain citizenship. Such inscription is a right of women and illiterates ...

No one may oblige a woman who is a citizen or an illiterate to be inscribed in the civic register or to vote ...

Article 112. A deputy must be a native-born Guatemalan, in full possession of his rights of citizenship, of secular status and have attained 21 years of age.

Haiti - Election and Electoral Procedure Decree of 12 February 1946

Article 1. All male Haitians who have completed their twenty-first year and are entitled to exercise their civil and political rights are electors. Constitution of 22 November 1946.

Article 39. A member of the Chamber of Deputies must: 1. Be a Haitian by birth and never have renounced his nationality; 2. Have attained twenty-five years of age; 3. Be in possession of his civil and political rights ...

Article 43. A Senator must: 1. Be a Haitian by birth and never have renounced his nationality; 2. Have attained thirty years of age; 3. Be in full possession of his civil and political rights ...

Honduras - Constitution of 23 March 1936

Article 24. Are citizens: 1. All male Hondurians who have attained 21 years of age; 2. All male Hondurians who have attained 18 years of age and are married; 3. All male Hondurians who have attained 18 years of age and know how to read and write.

Article 25. The rights of citizens are: to exercise the right to vote and to be eligible to public office in conformity with the law.

Article 29. Only those citizens are eligible, who have attained 21 years of age and are in possession of their rights subject to the exceptions established by law.

Hungary - Constitution of 18 August 1949

Article 50. In the Hungarian People's Republic, women enjoy equal rights with men.

Article 62 (1). Members of Parliament are elected by the citizens of the Hungarian People's Republic on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Article 65. All citizens who have the right to vote are eligible for election.

Iceland - Constitution of 17 June 1944

Article 33. Every person, man or woman, who has attained 21 years of age at the time of the election and who is an Icelandic subject and has been domiciled in the country for five years prior to the election, shall have the right to vote. No person shall have the right to vote unless he or she is of unblemished character and financially solvent.

Article 34. Every citizen who has the right to vote is eligible for the Althing.

India - Draft Constitution

NOTE: The Draft Constitution of India has as yet not been finally adopted, but the text of the following provisions has been agreed upon by the Constituent Assembly.

Section 67 (6). The election of the House of the People shall be on the basis of adult suffrage; that is to say, every citizen who is not less than twenty-one years of age and is not otherwise disqualified under this Constitution or under any Act of Parliament on the ground of non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practice shall be entitled to vote at such elections.

Section 10 (2). No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence, or any of them be ineligible or discriminated against for any employment or office under the State.

Section 68 A. A person shall not be qualified to be chosen to fill a seat in Parliament unless he -

- (a) is a citizen of India;
- (b) is, in the case of a seat in the Council of States, not less than thirty years of age, and, in the case of a seat in the House of the People, not less than twenty-five years of age, and
- (c) possesses such other qualifications as may be prescribed in his behalf by or under any law made by Parliament.

Iran -

NOTE: According to information received through the courtesy of the Permanent Delegation of Iran to the United Nations, the draft of a new electoral law for the country has been submitted to Parliament. Women have not been entitled to vote by virtue of earlier laws.

Iraq - Electoral Act for the Iraq Chamber of Deputies of 22 October 1924

Article 3. All male Iraqis whose names are inscribed in the electoral register ... shall be primary electors, except the following persons, namely any male person who has not completed his twentieth year ...

Article 32. Any person entitled to be a primary elector may be a deputy except a person who has not completed his thirtieth year ...

Ireland - Constitution of 29 December 1937

Article 15 (2). Every citizen without distinction of sex, who has reached the age of twenty-one years who is not disqualified by law and complies with the provisions of the law relating to the election of members of Dáil Éireann, shall have the right to vote at an election for members of Dáil Éireann.

Electoral Act, 1923.

Article 2. Every person, without distinction of sex, who is a citizen of Saorstát Éireann and has attained the age of thirty years and is not subject to any legal incapacity, whether imposed by this Act or otherwise, shall be entitled to be registered as a Seanád elector in the constituency in which he or she is registered as a Dáil elector.

Constitution, Article 16 (1). Every citizen without distinction of sex who has reached the age of twenty-one years, and who is not placed under disability or incapacity by this Constitution or by law, shall be eligible for membership of Dáil Éireann.

Electoral Act, 1923

Article 57. (1) Every citizen of Saorstát Éireann without distinction of sex who is of the age of 35 years or upwards and is not subject to any of the disqualifications mentioned in this section shall be eligible to be elected and (subject to compliance with the Standing Orders of Seanád) to sit as a member of the Seanád.

Israel - Constituent Assembly Elections Ordinance of 18 November 1948

Article 4. The right to vote shall be granted to every person, man or woman, who by the 29th Kislev, 5709 (31st December 1948) has completed 18 years of age ...

Article 5. The right to be elected is granted to every person, man or woman, who by the 29th Kislev, 5709 (31st December 1948) has completed 21 years of age ...

Italy - Constitution of 27 December 1947

Article 48. All citizens, male or female, who have attained their majority are electors.

The suffrage is personal, equal, free and secret. Its exercise is a civic duty.

The right to vote may be restricted only on the grounds of loss of civil rights or by reasons of an irrevocable penal sentence or in cases of moral turpitude specified by law.

Article 51. All citizens of either sex may hold public offices or elective positions on a footing of equality in accordance with the requirements laid down by law.

Japan - Constitution of 3 November 1946

Article 44. The qualifications of members of both Houses and their electors shall be fixed by law. However, there shall be no discrimination because of race, sex, creed, social status, family origin, education, property or income.

Act of 1 April 1945 concerning election of members of the House of Representatives.

Article 5. Any Japanese national who is over twenty years of age shall have the right to vote. Any Japanese national who is over twenty-five years of age shall be eligible for election.

Jordan - Legislative Council Electoral Act of 15 August 1928

Article 7. Every male Transjordanian, not being a Bedouin, who has completed his eighteenth year of his age, shall be entitled to vote at the primary elections ...

Article 4. Every male Transjordanian who has completed his thirtieth year shall be eligible for election as a member of the legislative councils.

Korea - Act of 17 March 1948 concerning the election of Representatives of the Korean people (applied to the elections held 10 May 1948 under the observations of the United Nations' Temporary Commission for Korea)

Article 1. Any citizen twenty-one or more years of age has the right to vote for representatives to the National Assembly regardless of sex, property, education or religion.

Any citizen twenty-five or more years of age has the right to be elected as a representative to the National Assembly regardless of sex, property, education or religion.

Age shall be counted as of the date the election is held.

Lebanon - Constitution of 23 May 1926

Article 21. Every Lebanese citizen who has completed his twenty-first year and fulfils the conditions laid down by the electoral law shall be an elector.

NOTE: According to information obtained by the Secretariat, the Arabic equivalent of the words "every" and "all" is used in the masculine gender, so as to exclude women from these rights.

Electoral Law of 2 January 1934.

Article 7. No one shall be elected to the Chamber of Deputies unless he is a citizen of the Lebanese Republic, is an elector over twenty-five years of age, is in possession of his civil and political rights, and is able to read and write ...

Liberia - Constitution of 26 July 1847

Article I (Section 11) (as amended in 1945). All elections shall be by ballot, and every citizen (male and female) of twenty-one years of age, possessing real estate, shall have the right of suffrage.

Article II (Section 2). ... No person shall be a representative who has not resided in the country two whole years immediately previous to his election, and who shall not when elected be an inhabitant of the county, and does not own real estate of not less value than 150 dollars in the county in which he resides, and who shall not have attained the age of 23 years ...

(Section 5). ... No person shall be a Senator who shall not have resided three whole years immediately previous to his election in the Republic of Liberia, and who shall not when elected be an inhabitant of the county which he represents, and does not own real estate of no less value than 200 dollars in the county which he represents and who shall not have attained the age of 25 years ...

Liechtenstein

NOTE: According to information received through the courtesy of Mr. Joseph Buchel, Secretary of the Government, the right to vote and to be elected extends only to men and not to women.

Luxembourg - Constitution of 17 October 1857

Article 52. Electors must be Luxembourg nationals of either sex, enjoy civil and political rights, have completed their twenty-first year and be domiciled in the Grand Duchy ...

In order to qualify for election, a person must have completed his twenty-fifth year and fulfil the other three conditions enumerated above.

Mexico - Act of 9 February 1949 amending the electoral law.

Article 41. Mexican males of eighteen years of age, if married, and twenty-one years of age, if unmarried, in the possession of their political rights and inscribed in the electoral register and lists, are electors.

Article 44. All electors who have the qualifications laid down in article 55 of the Constitution may be elected deputies.

Article 45. All electors who have the qualifications laid down in article 58 of the Federal Constitution may be elected senators.

NOTE: Articles 55 and 58 of the Constitution lay down qualifications regarding citizenship, possession of civil rights, minimum age etc. ... provide for certain incompatibilities.

Constitution of 5 February 1917

Article 115. (as added 12 February 1947) Women shall participate in municipal elections, on the same terms as men, having the right to vote and to be elected ...

Monaco - Constitution of 5 February 1911

Article 56. The elections to the National Council and the Communal Court shall be governed by Articles 6-75 of Act. No. 30 of 3 May 1920 regarding municipal organization.

Act of 3 May 1920.

Article 6. All male Monegasques who have reached majority and are not under liability as defined by law are electors.

Supreme Ordinance of 19 May 1945

Women of Monegasque nationality who fulfil the conditions required by the Act of 3 May 1920 are electors and eligible for membership in the Communal Council.

Mongolian People's Republic - Constitution of 30 June 1940

Article 71. All citizens of the Mongol People's Republic, who have reached the age of 18, have the right to participate in the elections and to be elected, irrespective of their sex, nationality, religion, education, nomadic or settled mode of life and property status, with the exception of the insane and persons convicted by the courts whose sentence includes deprivation of electoral rights.

Article 73. Women have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with men.

Netherlands - Constitution of 24 August 1815

Article 83. The members of the Second Chamber shall be elected directly by the inhabitants who are Netherlands citizens or recognized by law as Netherlands subjects and have attained the age prescribed by law, which shall not be less than twenty-three years ...

Article 85. The First Chamber shall be composed of fifty members. They shall be elected by the provincial estates according to the principles of proportional representation.

Article 87. To be eligible as a member of the Second Chamber, a person is required to be a citizen of the Netherlands or recognized by law as a Netherlands subject, to have attained the age of thirty years, not to be deprived of eligibility or excluded from the exercise of the right to vote ..

Article 91. In order to be eligible to membership in the First Chamber the requirements for membership in the Second Chamber must be fulfilled.

New Zealand - Electoral Act, 1927

Section 23 (2). Every adult person who has resided for one year in New Zealand, and who has resided in any electoral district for not less than three months immediately preceding the date of his application for registration as an elector of that district, and who is a British subject either by birth or by naturalization in New Zealand, is entitled, subject to the provisions of this Act, to be registered as an elector of that district' ...

Section 15 (2). A woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from being elected as a member of the House of Representatives, or from sitting or voting as a member thereof, anything to the contrary in any other Act notwithstanding.

Nicaragua - Constitution of 22 January 1948

Article 28. ... Nicaraguan nationals over 21 years of age and Nicaraguan nationals over 18 years of age who know how to read and write or who are married are citizens.

Article 29. Citizens have the right to be elected or appointed to public office.

Article 30. ... A law shall lay down regulations for women's suffrage. Such a law shall require for its enactment a majority of at least three-fourths. Women are eligible for office equally with men, save as expressly excepted by the Constitution or the laws.

NOTE: A law such as required in Article 30 has not yet been enacted.

Norway - Constitution of 17 May 1814

Article 50. Norwegian citizens, men and women, who have completed 21 years of age, have been domiciled in the country for five years and are residents thereof have the right to vote.

Article 51. No one may be elected as a representative unless he has completed his twenty-first year of age, has resided in the Kingdom for ten years, and has the right to vote in the district for which he is nominated ...

Pakistan -

NOTE: The present Constituent Assembly was elected indirectly through the Provincial Legislative Assemblies. The Constitution has not yet been enacted. According to information received through the courtesy of the Pakistan Permanent Delegation to the United Nations, in elections to such bodies women have in general the right to vote, namely those who have in their own right, the property qualifications required of men; who are wives or widows of men so qualified; who are wives of men with

service qualifications; who are pensioned widows or mothers of members of the armed forces or the police; or who possess a certain degree of education.

Panama - Constitution of 1 March 1946

Article 97. All Panamanians of either sex who have attained twenty-one years of age are citizens.

Article 98. Citizenship consists in the right to vote and to be elected to public positions of popular election and in the capacity to hold official positions with power and jurisdiction ...

Article 112. A Deputy to the National Assembly must be an active citizen and have attained twenty-five years of age.

Paraguay - Constitution of 10 July 1940

Article 39. All citizens have the duty of suffrage on attaining the age of eighteen years ...

Article 68. A Representative or his substitute must have attained twenty-five years of age and be a native-born citizen.

NOTE: No definite interpretation of these articles could be obtained.

According to the Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women, 1948, women in Paraguay have no right to vote.

Peru -

NOTE: The Government of Peru has appointed a commission to draw up the law which will govern the next election. Earlier elections were governed by the following texts of the Constitution of 9 April 1933:

Article 84. Male Peruvians of majority age, married men more than eighteen years or men otherwise of full legal capacity, are citizens.

Article 86. Citizens who know how to read and write, enjoy the right of suffrage; and in municipal elections, Peruvian women of majority age, married women or those who may have been married, and mothers of families, even though they may not have reached majority age.

Article 98. A Deputy must be Peruvian by birth, enjoy the right of suffrage, have attained twenty-five years of age ... A Senator must be Peruvian by birth, enjoy the right of suffrage, and have attained thirty-five years of age.

Philippines - Republic Act No. 180 of 21 June 1947

Article 98. Every citizen of the Philippines, whether male or female, twenty-one years of age or over, able to read and write, who has been a resident of the Philippines for one year and of the municipality in which he has registered

/during the

during the six months immediately preceding, who is not otherwise disqualified, may vote in the said precinct at any election.

Constitution of 1935

Article 5, Section 4. No person shall be a Senator unless he be a natural-born citizen of the Philippines and, at the time of his election, is at least thirty-five years of age, a qualified elector, and a resident of the Philippines for not less than two years immediately prior to his election.

Section 7. No person shall be a member of the House of Representatives unless he be a natural-born citizen of the Philippines and, at the time of his election, is at least twenty-five years of age, a qualified elector, and a resident of the province in which he is chosen for not less than one year immediately prior to his election.

Poland - Act of 22 September 1946 regarding elections to the Constituent Diet

Article 1. 1. All citizens of the Polish Republic, irrespective of sex, who have reached the age of 21 on the date of publication of the order for the holding of elections, and who have not been deprived of their electoral rights by virtue of the provisions of the present Act, shall have the right to elect deputies to the Constituent Diet.

Article 3. 1. All citizens of the Polish Republic who have the right to vote, and who have reached the age of 25 on the date of publication of the order for the holding of elections, shall be eligible for election to the Constituent Diet.

Portugal - Decree-Law No. 35.426 of 31 December 1945

Article 1. The President of the Republic and the National Assembly shall be elected by the following:

1. Male Portuguese citizens, of full age or otherwise of full legal capacity, who are able to read and write Portuguese;
2. Male Portuguese citizens, of full age or otherwise of full legal capacity, who while unable to read and write, pay to the State and the administrative bodies a sum of not less than 100 escudos in respect of one or more of the following taxes: real estate tax, industrial tax, occupational tax and tax on the utilization of capital;
3. Female Portuguese citizens, of full age or otherwise of full legal capacity, provided that as minimum qualifications they have attended the following courses:
 - (a) general secondary school course;
 - (b) elementary teaching course;
 - (c) course at art schools;

/(d) courses at

(d) courses at the National Conservatory or the Oporto Conservatory of Music;

(e) courses at industrial or commercial institutes.

4. Female Portuguese citizens, of full age or otherwise of full legal capacity, who, being heads of families, are covered by the provisions laid down in paragraph 2.

Romania - Constitution of 13 April 1948

Article 18. All citizens, irrespective of sex, nationality, race, religion, educational qualifications, profession, including servicemen, magistrates and civil servants, have the right to vote and to be elected to all the organs of the State.

All citizens who have reached the age of 18 have the right to vote, and all citizens who have reached the age of 23 have the right to be elected.

Disqualified persons, deprived of civil and political rights - if pronounced as such by the qualified authorities in accordance with the law - do not enjoy the right to vote.

Saarland - Constitution of 15 December 1947

Article 66. The electorate shall include all Saarlanders of either sex who are over the age of 20 years, reside in the Saarland and are not excluded from the franchise. More detailed provisions shall be laid down by law.

Article 69. ... Every elector who has attained 25 years of age is eligible to the Diet.

Saudi Arabia -

NOTE: There are no electoral rights in Saudi Arabia. According to article 28 of the Constitution of 1926, "a council shall be organized in the capital under the name of Legislative Assembly. This should consist of the Agent-General, his advisors and six notables. The latter must be able and competent persons, and shall be nominated by His Majesty the King."

Sweden - Riksdag Organic Act of 22 June 1866, as amended

Article 16. Every Swedish citizen irrespective of sex who has attained the age of 21 years during or before the calendar year last preceding shall have the right to vote.

Article 9. A man or woman shall not be entitled to be elected a member of the First Chamber unless he or she has attained the age of 35 years and is entitled to vote on public matters in the commune.

Article 19. A man or woman shall not be entitled to be elected a member of the Second Chamber unless he or she has attained the age of 25 years and is entitled to vote in a constituency or, in the case of a city consisting of more than one constituency, in one of several constituencies.

Switzerland - Federal Constitution of 29 May 1874

Article 74. Every Swiss who has completed twenty years of age, and who is not excluded from the rights of active citizenship by the legislation of the Canton in which he is domiciled shall have the right to take part in elections and referenda.

Article 75. Every lay Swiss citizen who has the right to vote is eligible for membership in the National Council.

NOTE: According to information received by the Secretariat, Swiss women have no right to vote and to be elected.

Syria - Legislative Decree No. 17, dated 10 September 1949

Article 7. Every Syrian of either sex who has attained eighteen years of age by 1 January of the year in which the election is held, who is in possession of his civic and political rights and who has not been deprived of electoral capacity, shall be an elector in the electoral district in which he is registered.

In addition to the foregoing, a woman desiring to exercise the franchise must possess a certificate at least of primary education.

Separate polling stations shall be set aside for women.

NOTE: A new Constitution is being drafted in Syria.

Thailand - Provisional Constitution of 9 November 1947

Section 37. The House of Representatives is composed of members elected by the people in accordance with the law on the Election of Members of the House of Representatives.

NOTE: According to information received through the courtesy of Mr. Dilokrit Kridakon, First Secretary of the Royal Siamese Embassy, Washington, persons of both sexes who have attained 20 years of age have the right to vote.

Turkey - Constitution of 24 May 1924

Article 10. Every Turk, man or woman, who has completed his twenty-second year of age, has the right to vote in the elections of Turkish deputies.

Article 11. Every Turk, man or woman, who has completed his thirtieth year of age may be elected deputy.

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republics - Constitution of 30 January 1937

Article 102. Women in the Ukrainian SSR are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, governmental, cultural and other public activity.

Article 117. Women have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with men.

Union of South Africa - Electoral Consolidation Act, 1946

Section 3. Every white person who is a Union national, is of or over the age of 21 years ... shall, on compliance with the provisions of the Act, be entitled to be registered as a voter.

Section 174 (1). A white woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from being nominated, elected or from sitting or voting as a Senator or member of the House of Assembly or of a provincial council.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - Constitution of 5 December 1936

Article 122. Women in the USSR are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, governmental, cultural and other public activity.

Article 137. Women have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with men.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Representation of the People Act, 1948

Section 1 (2). The persons entitled to vote as electors at a parliamentary election in any constituency shall be those resident there on the qualifying date who, on that date and on the date of the poll, are British subjects of full age and not subject to any legal incapacity to vote ...

Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act, 1918

1. A woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage for being elected to or sitting or voting as a member of the Commons House of Parliament.

United States of America - Constitution of 1789 - Nineteenth Amendment of 26 August 1920

The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Article I, Section 2 (2). Constitution of 1789 - No person shall be a representative who shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Section 3 (3). No person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained the age of thirty years, and been nine years a citizen of the United States and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Uruguay - Constitution of 18 May 1934

Article 65. Native citizens are all men and women born anywhere in the

/territory

territory of the Republic. The children of a native-born father or mother, whatever may have been the place of their birth, are also native citizens by the fact of residence in the country or by being inscribed in the civic register.

Article 66. The following persons have a right to legal citizenship:

1st. Alien married men and women of good conduct, who, having some capital invested or in property in the country, or practicing some science, art, or industry, have three years of regular residence in the Republic.

2nd. Alien men and women of good conduct, unmarried, or married if their wives or husbands do not reside in the Republic, who have the requirements of the preceding clause and five years of regular residence in the country.

3rd. Alien men and women who obtain special permission from the Assembly for notable services or outstanding merit ...

Article 67. Married aliens, men and women of good conduct, who, possessing some capital invested or in property in the country, or practicing some science, art, or industry, have had a regular residence of at least fifteen years in the Republic, have the right to vote without the necessity of previously obtaining legal citizenship ...

Article 68. Every citizen is part of the sovereignty of the Nation; as such he is entitled to vote and eligible in the cases and manner such as provided for.

Article 81. A Representative must be a natural-born citizen in full possession of his rights, or a legal citizen who has been for five years in possession of his rights and, in both cases, have attained twenty-five years of age.

Article 89. A Senator must be a natural-born citizen, or a legal citizen who has been for seven years in full possession of his rights and have attained thirty years of age.

Venezuela -

NOTE: According to information received through the courtesy of Mr. Carlos A. Kolster, Secretary, Permanent Delegation of Venezuela to the United Nations, the Constitution of 5 July 1947 has not been in force since 24 November 1948. It was stated in an official announcement that the new government would act in accordance with the Constitution of 20 July 1936, as amended in 1945, reserving the right to impose those provisions of the Constitution of 1947 which were deemed progressive.

According to the Constitution of 1947, women had the right to vote and to be elected on equal terms with men.

Yemen -

NOTE: According to information received by the Secretariat, there are no electoral rights in the Yemen.

Yugoslavia - Constitution of 31 January 1946

Article 23. All citizens, regardless of sex, nationality, race, creed, degree of education or place of residence, who are 18 years of age have the right to elect and be elected to all organs of state authority.

Article 24. Women have equal rights with men in all fields of state, economic and social-political life ...

ANNEX

TABLE I

Countries where women may vote in all elections on an
equal basis with men
(52 countries)

Albania	Italy
Argentina	Japan
Australia	Korea
Austria	Liberia
Belgium	Luxembourg
Brazil	Mongolian People's Republic
Bulgaria	Netherlands
Burma	New Zealand
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Norway
Canada	Pakistan
Ceylon	Panama
Chile	Philippines
China	Poland
Cuba	Romania
Czechoslovakia	Saarland
Denmark	Sweden
Dominican Republic	Thailand
Ecuador ^{1/}	Turkey
Finland	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
France	Union of South Africa
Federal Republic of Germany	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Hungary	United Kingdom
Iceland	United States of America
India	Uruguay
Ireland	Venezuela
Israel	Yugoslavia

^{1/} Voting is compulsory for men, voluntary for women.

TABLE II

Countries where women may vote in all elections subject
to certain qualifications not imposed on men
(4 countries)

- Guatemala: Women must be literate. Voting is compulsory and secret for literate men, optional and secret for women who have the required qualifications and optional and public for illiterate men.
- Portugal: Women are subject to higher educational requirements or when fulfilling the same tax qualifications as those prescribed for men must be heads of families in order to have the right to vote.
- Salvador: Women must prove that they are 25 years of age and have passed the third school grade.
- Syria: Women must have an elementary school certificate, a condition not required for men.

TABLE III

Countries where women may vote in local elections only
(5 countries)

Bolivia
Greece^{1/}
Mexico
Monaco
Peru^{2/}

^{1/} Until 1953, women are subject to higher age requirements: 25 years for women as against 21 years for men.

^{2/} Women are subject to higher age requirements: 21 years for women as against 18 years for men.

TABLE IV

Countries where women have no political rights
(17 countries)

Afghanistan
Colombia
Costa Rica
Egypt
Ethiopia^{1/}
Haiti
Honduras
Iran
Iraq
Jordan
Lebanon
Liechtenstein
Nicaragua^{2/}
Paraguay^{3/}
Saudi Arabia^{1/}
Switzerland
Yemen^{1/}

1/ No electoral rights for men and women.

2/ Women have no electoral rights, but are eligible for public office equally with men, save as excepted by the Constitution or the laws.

3/ According to the Report of the Inter-American Convention of Women, 1947, women have no right to vote.

TABLE V

Countries in which action has been taken since 1945
(the signing of the Charter of the United Nations)
extending full or limited political rights to women

(18 countries)

Albania	Constitution of 1946
Argentina	Act of 1947
Belgium	Act of 1948
Bolivia	Constitution of 1945 (local elections only)
Bulgaria	Constitution of 1947
Burma	Constitution of 1947
Chile	Act of 1949
China	Constitution of 1947
Israel	Election Ordinance of 1948
Italy	Constitution of 1947
Japan	Constitution of 1946
Korea	Act of 1948
Liberia	Constitutional amendment of 1945
Mexico	Constitutional amendment of 1947 (local elections only)
Panama	Constitution of 1946
Syria	Legislative Decree of 1949
Venezuela	Constitution of 1947
Yugoslavia	Constitution of 1946
