



HER TIMES

A SNAPSHOT OF GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

March 2024 - #1

On the eve of International Women's Day, I am pleased to introduce our new e-update on governance, peace and security in Asia and the Pacific. At a time of complex and emerging crises and rapid change in the region, we want to highlight the efforts of our government and civil society partners as well as their important progress in advancing inclusive governance and peaceful societies.

- Alia El-Yassir, Regional Director, UN Women Asia and the Pacific

- Women's Leadership in Community-Oriented Policing
- Women's Political Participation Monitor
- Leaving No One Behind: Access to Justice
- Women, Peace and Security: National Action Plans update
- Meet Feminist Climate and Peace Educator: Ameera Adil
- Upcoming Events

Women's Leadership in Community-Oriented Policing



When women participate in policing, everyone benefits. Despite this, women remain chronically underrepresented in policing across Asia and the Pacific. In partnership with the UN Police Standing Police Capacity and the Government of the Republic of Korea, UN Women is supporting national police services in the region to re-think community-oriented policing, with the shared goal of seeing women meaningfully participate and lead community-oriented policing initiatives, and contribute to sustaining peace and resilience. This

includes capacity building and policy development. [Read more »](#)

Videos



Supt. Pari Gul, Superintendent of Police, Balochistan Police, Pakistan »



Norul Mohamed Rashid, UN Women Policy Advisor on Governance, Peace and Security for Asia and the Pacific »



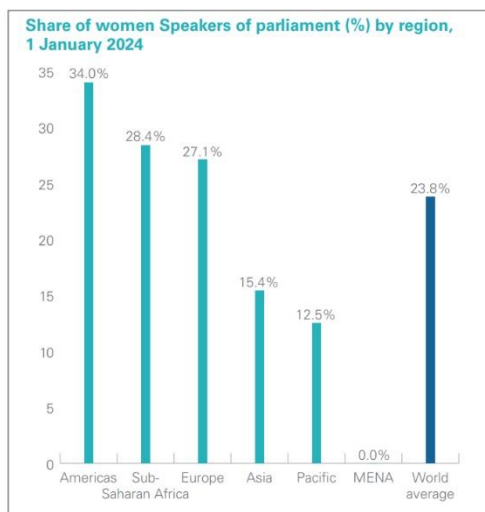
Dr Ehsan Sadiq, Director General, Pakistan's National Police Bureau »

Women's Political Participation Monitor

Voter. Candidate. Member of Parliament (MP). Head of Government. Which term will apply to you in 2024? During this unprecedented year of national elections, UN Women continues to advocate for women's meaningful political participation and leadership at all levels in the Asia-Pacific region.

So far this year, two women have been reconfirmed as Heads of Government in the region. In

January, Hilda Heine was inaugurated as President of the Marshall Islands for the second time, while Sheikh Hasina was re-elected as Prime Minister of Bangladesh.



Courtesy IPU, *Women in Parliament 2023* (p.21)

Released this week by the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), the *Women in Parliament 2023* report offers a stark reminder why efforts must be stepped up to increase women's political representation in the region.

Report findings for the Pacific include:

- On 1 January 2024, some 22.5% of MPs in the Pacific were women. This was a decline of just 0.1% in 12 months, but nonetheless, the Pacific was the only region in the world where the average share of women MPs decreased in 2023.
- Women's representation in the Marshall Islands' parliament rose to 12.1%, reaching an historic high.

- Having ranked 4th globally for women's parliamentary representation at the beginning of 2023, New Zealand started 2024 in 16th place.

Report findings for Asia include:

- As of 1 January 2024, women held 21.4% of parliamentary seats in the Asia region which was the second lowest of all regions, and just 0.4 % higher than at the start of 2023.
- In 2023, Khuon Sudary became the first woman to hold the position of President of the National Assembly of Cambodia.
- Mongolia introduced constitutional and legal reforms that are due to gradually increase the electoral quota for women among candidates from 20% to 30% in 2024, and to 40% in 2028.
- In Timor-Leste, women comprised 33.8% of all MPs elected in 2023, the highest share of parliaments in the Asia region following elections last year.

[Read IPU 2023 report »](#)

Leaving No One Behind: Access to Justice

The *Asia and the Pacific Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) progress report 2024* concludes that on its current trajectory, the region will not meet any of the 17 SDGs by the 2030 deadline. It contains priorities for enhancing data availability on SDG indicators, especially for the most vulnerable population groups. Disability is one of eight recommended dimensions, yet disaggregated statistics by disability are not yet available.

To overcome such data gaps and recommend solutions – specifically for access to justice – the 2023 pioneering study - *Closing the Justice Gap for Women with Intellectual and/or Psychosocial Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific* benefitted from contributions by 232 adult women with disabilities in Fiji, Nepal, Indonesia and the Philippines, as well as organizations of persons with disabilities, disability rights activists and self-advocates. The study is the

product of a partnership between the University of Galway, International Disability Alliance, UN Women, International Commission of Jurists, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). [Read report »](#)



Video: Indonesian advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities [Petra Angelina »](#)

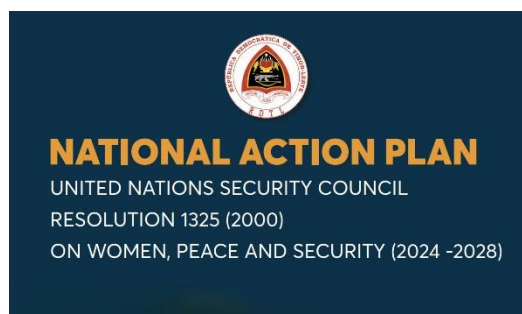
Country briefs



Click each image to view

This is an illustration of how UN Women, together with our partners, is promoting a whole-of-society approach to governance and meaningful institutional reforms at the intersection of SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). This requires consistent engagement with women’s organizations and diverse stakeholders. Together with our partners, we are pursuing solutions to redress historical and emerging inequalities, including those based on disability. [Learn more »](#)

Women, Peace and Security: National Action Plans Update



The Government of Timor-Leste is the latest in the region to launch a second-generation National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Fifteen government institutions, 14 civil society organizations and representatives of rural women, women survivors of past conflicts, people with disabilities and of the LGBTIQ+ community were consulted. [Read more »](#)

Plans adopted in 2023

Three countries in the Asia-Pacific region adopted new or updated NAPs in 2023 to meet their commitments under the WPS Agenda. The Philippines became the first in the region to launch a fourth-generation NAP.



Japan – Third plan covers 2023-2028 (*available in Japanese*).

Sri Lanka – First plan released for 2023-2027.

The Philippines – Fourth NAP spans 2023-2033; a renewed WPS Regional Action Plan for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao was also developed.

UN Women welcomes and tracks such progress. [Click here »](#) to access all current and previous iterations of WPS National Action Plans in the region.

Meet Feminist Climate and Peace Educator: Ameera Adil



Ameera Adil heads the Office of Sustainability at Pakistan's National University of Science and Technology. With support from UN Women, she recently attended the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to advocate for the WPS agenda in the context of climate change and complex crises. She shares her perspective. [Read more »](#)

UN Women recognizes that gender, climate, peace and security are closely linked and is pursuing integrated action to address this nexus. In 2024, we will launch a definitive guide based on country experiences and assessments on the integration of climate change in WPS national and local action plans in Asia and the Pacific. [Learn more »](#)

Upcoming Events

8 March 2024

International Women's Day, Bangkok. [Learn more »](#)

27-28 March 2024

UN Women's Cybersecurity Training of Trainers workshop, Bangkok: a Women, Peace and Cybersecurity initiative. [Learn more »](#)

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