

Sluggish progress on women in politics will hamper development

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The [Women in Politics 2015 Map](#) launched by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women today shows that although the numbers of women in executive government and in parliament continue to inch forward, the slow rate of progress will severely check global development plans due to be adopted later this year.

Women's political empowerment and equal participation in political decision-making have underpinned global development targets since 1995 and are likely to feature in the new sustainable development agenda taking over from the Millennium Development Goals this year. The snail's pace of progress on gender equality and women's participation in public and political life will need to be tackled head on for the overall success of the new goals.

Although the number of women government ministers grew from 670 to 715 in the 12 months since 1st January 2014, that figure represents only 17.7 per cent of all government ministers in the world. Since 2005, the percentage of women ministers has only increased by 3.5 points.

"All progress is welcome. But our data is uncompromising in its truth. We are a long way from where the world needs to be on gender equality and women's political participation," said IPU President Saber Chowdhury. "This data should be a wake-up call to mobilize political will to change mindsets and take action that will spur progress on this issue."