

MOROCCO

Dates of Elections: 14 September and 2 October 1984

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in the expanded Chamber of Representatives. Parliamentary elections had previously been held in June 1977, when 264 Representatives had been chosen.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Morocco, the Chamber of Representatives, is composed of 306 members elected for 6 years. Two-thirds (204) of the Representatives are directly elected by universal suffrage while one-third (102) are indirectly chosen by local councillors (who elect 60 Representatives), professional bodies (32) and employees' organizations (10).

Electoral System

All Moroccan citizens who are at least 21 years of age and registered on the annually-revised electoral rolls are entitled to vote for directly-elected Representatives. To designate the Representatives chosen by indirect ballot, electors must belong to one of the bodies which make up the colleges mentioned above.

Qualified electors not less than 25 years of age on the polling date may be candidates for one of the seats filled by direct ballot. Members of the respective electoral colleges, also not less than 25 years of age, may be candidates for any of the seats filled by indirect ballot.

Moroccan citizens by naturalization and persons restricted by court order, as well as magistrates, members of the public authorities, members of the armed and security forces, heads of the regional divisions of the Department of National Security and police commissioners may not be elected to the Chamber of Representatives. The parliamentary mandate is moreover incompatible with all non-elective public posts (except governmental ones) at the national or local level, or work for public undertakings.

Candidatures for directly-elected seats must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the polling day, and eight days in advance as regards indirectly elected seats. A monetary deposit of 2,000 *dirhams* (approximately US\$250) per candidate is also required and is reimbursed if the candidate, or list of candidates, obtains at least 5% of the votes cast in his constituency.

The 204 Representatives chosen by direct ballot are elected in single-member constituencies by simple plurality of vote. Representatives selected by indirect ballot are elected by the majority-list simple plurality system, without vote-splitting or preferential voting; the election is by simple plurality vote where the respective electoral college has only one seat to fill.

A by-election is held within six months for any seat in the Chamber of Representatives which becomes vacant between general elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Parliamentary elections were originally scheduled for September 1983 but later postponed until after the holding of a popular referendum on the future of Western Sahara. The polling date was finally set on 25 April 1984.

The campaign, which officially opened on 1 September, was generally free, featuring many political rallies and access to radio and television by all parties. Economic issues (unemployment, foreign debt, etc.) were the main points of difference between the contending groups. In all, 1333 candidates (an unprecedented number) and 12 parties with wide-ranging views vied for the 204 directly-elected seats.

On polling day, the liberal *Union constitutionnelle* (UC), founded in 1983 and led by former Prime Minister Maati Bouabid, gained the most seats while the Socialists (USFP) more than doubled their total, largely at the expense of the traditional *Istiqlal* party. Altogether, 113 incumbents retained their seats; none of the 16 female candidates was successful. The remaining 102 parliamentary seats were filled on 2 October by nominations made by an electoral college composed of local councillors and professional bodies.

The new Parliament held its inaugural session on 12 October.

Morocco

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats
in the Chamber of Representatives

Number of registered electors	7,414,846
Voters.	4,999,646 (67.42%)
Valid votes.	4,443,004

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Valid votes obtained	%	Directly elected seats	Indirectly elected seats	Total number of seats
<i>Union constitutionnelle (UC)</i>	190	1,101,502	24.79	56	27	83
<i>Rassemblement national des independants (RNI)</i>	173	763,395	17.18	39	22	61
<i>Mouvement populaire (MP)</i>	157	695,020	15.54	31	16	47
<i>Istiqlal.</i>	195	681,083	15.33	24	17	41
<i>Union socialiste des forces populaires (USFP)</i>	170	550,291	12.39	35	1	36
<i>Parti national democratique (PND).</i>	152	396,370	8.92	15	9	24
<i>Union marocaine du travail</i>	—	—	—	—	5	5
<i>Confederation democratique du travail.</i>	—	—	—	—	3	3
<i>Union generale des travailleurs marocains</i>	—	—	—	—	—	2
<i>Parti du progres et du socialisme (PPS).</i>	—	—	—	2	—	2
<u>Others.</u>	—	—	—	2	—	2
				204	102	306

*2. Distribution of Members of Parliament according
to Professional Category*

	%
Liberal professions.	20
Farmers.	19
Civil servants.	17
Teachers.	15
Tradesmen.	12
Salaried employees in private sector.	
Industrialists.	5
Craftsmen.	2
<u>Others.</u>	<u>3</u>
	100%

*3. Distribution of Members of Parliament
according to Sex*

Men.306
<u>Women.</u>	<u>—</u>
	306

*4. Distribution of Members of Parliament
according to Age Group*

	%
25-34 years.	8
35-44 ».	39
45-54 ».	31
Over 54 years.	<u>22</u>
	100%