

ADIF | FUTURE FORUM

VOTING MATTERS: DIASPORA PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION

A few countries in the world allow diaspora representatives to have a seat at the national parliament. The list below shows the countries that we have identified through our [global diaspora engagement mapping](#). Your country isn't listed? Let us know! EU-Diaspora@icmpd.org



CABO VERDE

There are six members of parliament to represent Cabo Verdean citizens abroad: two each from the Americas, the rest of Africa and Europe.



ECUADOR

Ecuadorians living abroad are represented in the National Assembly by six parliamentarians. The main mission of these representatives is to be the voice of migrants and to guarantee their rights. Of the 137 seats in the legislature, two are for parliamentarians from the Europe, Asia and Oceania constituency; two from the United States and Canada; and two from Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa.



IVORY COAST

The new Constitution introduces several important rights for the diaspora. In Article 30, the state commits to ensuring the participation of Ivorians abroad in 'the life of the nation', while Article 87 introduces diaspora representation in the new Senate and Article 55 makes Ivorian citizens born to at least one Ivorian parent eligible for presidential candidacy (the previous Constitution's criteria required both parents to be of Ivorian origin).



LEBANON

In an attempt to bolster an ever-absent representation of Lebanese immigrants in the country's democratic life, the Lebanese electoral law of 2017 was adopted and governed the parliamentary elections of May 2018. The unprecedented law highlighted the right of Lebanese expatriates to register and vote. It additionally [allocated six parliamentary seats \(of 128 total\) to the diaspora](#).



MOLDOVA

Political engagement of the Moldovan diaspora has grown over years and in 2019, the government created and elected individual representatives for 14 electoral constituencies for the diaspora for the national parliamentary election.



NIGER

There are five members of parliament to represent Nigerians citizens abroad: one per continent.



SENEGAL

Senegal has a proud record of enabling diaspora civic and political participation. In addition to diaspora overseas voting, the [National Assembly dedicates 15 of its 165 parliamentary seats for Senegalese abroad](#). Senegal is one of the few countries to have established diaspora deputies in the National Assembly. In order for these new MPs to be elected, eight new constituencies have been created: two in Europe, one in the Americas, one in Asia and the Middle East, and four others in North, West, Central and Southern Africa.



TUNISIA

Organic Law N° 2014-16, Relating to Elections and Referenda was a result of demands from Tunisians abroad for greater political rights, i.e., the right to become representatives in the Assembly, and the right for dual nationals to become President. The number of diaspora representatives in the Tunisian parliament is proportional to the size of the diaspora, which makes Tunisia unique in this regard. During consultations on the 2019 budget for the Ministry of Social Affairs, representatives in the national assembly argued that there were insufficient resources allocated for programmes targeting the diaspora and [called for a dedicated national strategy for the Tunisian community abroad](#) in order to boost the country's economic development.