From the numbers drawn from the Judobase presented in the above table, it is clear that women have smaller shares in every position in judo. It is expected that athletes are those most represented in the overall judo population (26%), followed by IJF referees (25%) and administration (general secretaries – 24%). Coaches as well as women in leadership positions (presidents of national judo federations) are most underrepresented (14% and 8% respectively).

The IJF Gender Equity Commission is working with the members - the national judo federations and Continental Unions to ensure the necessary conditions that all genders have the same initial conditions for progress and success in their fields of activity. Judo is still perceived as a dominantly male sport and stereotypes and prejudices are the most resistant to change. Therefore, it is one of the main goals of all of us working or just supporting judo to be dedicated to gender equity and persistent in changing the current situation.

Report compiled by Dr Sanda Corak, Chair, IJF Gender Equity Commission