



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Ms. Sahar Albazar

President of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians

Opening Remarks

144th IPU Assembly, Nusa Dua, Indonesia

Opening of the General Debate (11:00am)

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Madam Vice-President of the Bureau of Women
Parliamentarians,
Distinguished guests,
Dear colleagues,

I am very pleased to address you as President of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. I also speak to you as a voice for the youth and future generations.

At IPU Assemblies, we always debate issues of great importance. However, in the minds of most young people, climate change is one key issue that truly defines our time.

We start the most important decade in human history. The next ten years will determine our world for the next centuries. The degradation of our environment happened well before us youth were born. Yet it is us who will have to suffer the effects and it is us who will have to repair the damage.

Therefore we simply must have a say in climate action!

Exclusion is not only unjust, but it is also an incredible waste of the talents and fresh ideas of the most educated generation in history.

Young people all over are watching how politicians are tackling the climate emergency, and very often they are not satisfied. We see it in the Greta Thunbergs of our today's world. We see it in the movement Fridays for Future. And we see it when millions march to demand action. Their voices – and their solutions – need a place in our parliaments.

This is where young MPs come in.

As young people ourselves, we are ideally placed to bridge the views of youth to parliament. However, with less than 3 per cent of MPs under 30, we, and the voices we represent, are greatly underrepresented.

So what can we do? Yes, we must urgently prioritize action to implement the Paris Agreement. And to get there, we need more youth participation:

- We need more young MPs in parliament;
- We must better include youth civil society in parliamentary processes; and
- We need MPs of all ages to listen to the youth and to speak up for them.

Finally, there is one easy way you can take action right now. It is by signing up to IPU's "I Say Yes!" campaign either at our stand at this Assembly, or online. Join our movement and take this first step to empower youth!

I am pleased that my home country, Egypt, is prioritizing youth inclusion in the lead up to the COP 27 Conference in Sharm el-Sheikh. The first event will be in May, the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, which will be dedicated to climate action. I hope all of you will be sending delegations of Young MPs to take part. Afterwards, in September, Egypt will host the UNFCCC Conference of Youth. These two events will feed in the perspectives of

youth into the COP 27 Conference in November. This is a great example of including youth into important political processes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In this defining moment, we cannot exclude anyone from solving the climate crisis, especially youth. Let us work together. Thank you.