



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Seventh IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians

Post-COVID-19 recovery: A youth-responsive approach

28 and 29 April 2021

(virtual; CET – Geneva time)

Provisional Programme

Wednesday, 28 April	
14:00-14:20	Opening session <i>Session chaired by Ms. Cynthia Iliana López Castro, MP, México, a member of the Board of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians</i> Opening remarks • Mr. Duarte Pacheco, IPU President • Mr. Melvin Bouva (Suriname), member of parliament, President of the Board of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians
14:20-15:50	Session 1 – Youth participation: A sine qua non for youth-responsive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic <i>Session chaired by Ms. Cynthia Iliana López Castro, MP, México, a member of the Board of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians</i> Keynote presentation on enhancing partnerships between parliaments and youth Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth Panel debate In 2020, the tenth anniversary of the IPU resolution Youth participation in the democratic process coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic that was to reinforce existing limitations to and gaps challenging youth empowerment. Parliaments have a key role to play in addressing these limitations and gaps and eliminating existing intergenerational inequalities that have been enhanced due to the pandemic. To mitigate the impact of the crisis on youth and contribute to a youth-responsive, effective and sustainable recovery, parliaments need the participation and leadership of their young members, as well as a strong intergenerational partnership between their young and senior members. Parliaments also need strong internal mechanisms, such as youth parliamentary committees and caucuses, to protect and advance the youth empowerment agenda. Last but not least, more than ever before, parliaments need to open up their processes to the young men and women in society to inform parliament's work and decisions from a youth perspective. How to avoid that the health crisis, in addition to having become an economic crisis, transforms into an even greater representation crisis when it comes to youth? How best to strongly and efficiently increase youth participation in parliament? What is needed to create and sustain strong intergenerational partnerships in parliament? How are parliamentary youth mechanisms faring and how are they to be backed up to ensure their success in promoting youth empowerment?

	Panellists: • Ms. Zeina Hilal, Manager of the Youth Participation Programme, IPU • Mr. Kabir Ibrahim Tukura, Chairman of the Young Parliamentarians Forum of Nigeria • Ms. Eugenia Catalfamo, MP, Argentina Launch of the IPU Campaign for youth participation Say “Yes to youth in parliament”, identify the transformative actions that you can take and sign up! The panel debate will be followed by a moderated intergenerational dialogue on taking transformative action for youth participation in parliament.
15:50-15:55	Wrap-up
15:55-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:25	Session 2 – Supporting higher and university education: A priority of the recovery agenda <i>Session chaired by Mr. Melvin Bouva, MP, Suriname, President of the Board of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians</i> Keynote presentation on the impact of COVID-19 on youth higher and university education and priorities for the recovery phase Ms. Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa, Director of the Division for Education 2030, UNESCO Panel debate The closure of schools and universities has affected more than 1.5 billion children and youth worldwide. The pandemic has exacerbated education inequities and gaps among young adults. COVID-19 had immediate impacts on higher education and university students. It affected their educational life, amplified inequalities of access to online learning, incurred costs and financial burdens on them and their families, separated them from their teachers and peers, and disrupted learning continuity and international mobility. What are the lessons learned from the pandemic and how best to adapt education – particularly secondary, tertiary and university – to be resilient and leave no one behind? How best to take advantages and mitigate risks of virtual learning post-pandemic? How can we ensure that education is prioritized in the recovery phase? What can parliamentarians do in terms of legislation, policy making and resource allocations to protect education and adapt it as best as possible in the coming years? Panellists: • Mr. Sebastian Berger, Executive Director, Global Student Forum • Ms. Irine Yusiana Roba Putri, MP, Indonesia • Ms. Leah Moss – Advocacy Manager, Plan International Presentations by panellists will be followed by a moderated intergenerational dialogue on good practices on higher and university education and on identifying strategies for parliamentary action.
17:25-17:30	Wrap-up

Thursday, 29 April	
14:00-15:15	Session 3 – Healthy youth beyond the pandemic <i>Session chaired by Ms. Elena Afanasieva, MP, Russia, a member of the Board of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians</i> Keynote presentation on the impact of COVID-19 on youth health and the means to protect youth health services during and post-pandemic Dr Gaudenz Silberschmidt, Director for Health and Multilateral Partnerships, WHO Intergenerational conversation • Dr. Gaudenz Silberschmidt, Director for Health and Multilateral Partnerships, WHO • Ms. Audrey Fontaine, Member of the Generation Equality Youth Task Force Despite the fact that, compared to older adults, young people are less likely to develop life threatening illnesses as a result of COVID-19, the pandemic has nevertheless had significant consequences on their health and well-being. Social distancing and quarantine measures have serious psychological consequences on young people, such as stress, anxiety, and loneliness. Gender-based violence has increased putting the lives of too many young women in great danger. Young men and women also face disruptions in access to essential health services, including sexual and reproductive healthcare. What have we learned on the impact of COVID-19 on youth health? How to ensure that COVID-19 response plans are sensitive and responsive to youth-specific healthcare needs, including sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and psychosocial support? What can parliamentarians do to protect and enhance youth health care during and post-pandemic?
15:15-15:20	Wrap-up
15:20-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-17:00	Session 4 – Economic empowerment: Transforming the challenge into an opportunity <i>Session chaired by Ms. Marta Grande, MP, Italy, a member of the Board of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians</i> Keynote presentation on youth and COVID-19 Mr. Sangheon Lee, Director of the Employment Policy Department, ILO Panel debate With less employment experience, young people tend to be among the most economically fragile. While due to a lack of job vacancies and recruitments, young job seekers are facing a longer school-to-work transition, young workers risk losing their jobs amid the current wave of lay-offs and the collapse of businesses and start-ups. What policies will promote employment among young people in the economies of today and tomorrow? How can budgets be used to invest in economic activities and sectors fertile for the hiring of young people? How can we ensure that young people get more access to targeted credits, loans, and insurance? What can parliaments

	and their members do to support and enhance a youth-responsive job market recovery? Panellists: • Mr. Sebastian Essl, Economist, Global Macroeconomic and Debt Team, World Bank Group • Ms. Iqra Khalid, MP, Canada • Ms. Meera Sultan Nasser Mohammed Al Suwaidi, MP, UAE Presentations by panellists will be followed by an intergenerational dialogue on good practices on youth employment measures and on identifying strategies for parliamentary action.
17:00-17:30	Closing session <i>Session chaired by Mr. Melvin Bouva (Suriname), member of parliament, President of the Board of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians</i> Recap of key findings and recommendations by the Conference rapporteurs Closing speeches • Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General