

## Eighth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians

### Young MPs for climate action

15 and 16 June 2022, Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt)

#### Concept note

The IPU's annual Global Conferences of Young Parliamentarians are unique platforms for young members of parliaments to get together, exchange, learn and define common and innovative strategies to advance youth empowerment. Since 2014, the Global Conferences have focused on youth empowerment and have provided policy orientation in areas such as political participation, peace and prosperity, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), social and economic inclusion, education, employment, well-being, and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This Conference will continue the objective of empowering young parliamentarians and youth, this time on the topic of climate action.

In 2022, no topic is as pressing and existential as action to halt climate change and global warming. Climate change has no borders. It has not only become a top priority on global and national levels, but it has also galvanized youth civil society all over the world at the grassroots to demand action and results from their political leaders. Young parliamentarians, many of whom have become engaged in politics to be able to contribute to pro-climate political action, are ideally situated to bridge youth pro-climate civil society to the work of parliament and channel their views into policy-making.

The Eighth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians will bring together young MPs from around the world to coordinate parliamentary actions to mitigate the impact of climate change and maintain the global temperature increase well below 2°C, and preferably below 1.5°C, in line with the Paris Agreement. It will also be a platform to exchange ideas, experiences, and good practices on ways to harness the engagement, innovation, and voices of young people so that they are amplified and positioned to impact climate-related laws and policies.

The Conference sessions will focus on four main topics:

- 1. The state of climate change, its impact and human rights.** In addition to the environmental implications from the rise of temperatures, there are human ones as well. The Conference will take stock of the current state of climate change and international response, as well as its link with the protection and fulfilment of human rights. This includes its impact on human security and vulnerable groups, as well as the concept of *climate justice* as legal action to protect the human rights of future generations.
- 2. Parliamentary action to fight climate change.** Young MPs have key roles in addressing climate change, from participating in the drafting of new legislation, reviewing state budgets, to applying oversight tools to monitor government implementation of climate commitments. The Conference will highlight examples of what young MPs can do to play a leadership role in combatting climate change. It will also explore the growing practice of environment-based analysis in budgets, or green budgeting. The concept and experience of parliaments in reducing their own ecological footprints to be more environmentally friendly (green parliaments) will also be introduced.
- 3. Climate change and civil society.** As representatives of the people, young parliamentarians are ideally placed to connect young people and civil society groups – especially youth groups – in the work of parliament to combat climate change. The Conference will explore how linkages and public engagement can be enhanced and youth voices better channeled in parliament. It will also include a presentation of the latest 2022 Global Parliamentary Report on public engagement in the work of parliament produced by the IPU and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

4. **Climate change support for developing countries.** All countries require the means to fund and develop climate mitigation and adaptation measures; however this need is more acute in the developing world. The Conference will explore ways parliaments can play a role in facilitating development cooperation between developed and developing countries to work together to ensure that global climate change targets are met while fostering sustainable development.

The Conference discussions will be based primarily on the sharing of laws, policies and creative practices to address climate action. It will feature a mix of case studies, inspirational speakers, and technical briefings, all aimed to position young parliamentarians to take leadership roles on this topic in their countries. **Delegations are encouraged to come prepared with examples of good practices from their home countries to share with their colleagues.**

Lastly, the Conference will be an opportunity to promote the IPU's ***I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!*** campaign. The campaign was spearheaded by the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians and is anchored around six pledges selected by young MPs themselves to be most effective in catalysing action. It is designed to mobilize leaders, Speakers of parliaments, and parliamentarians of all ages to take transformative action for youth participation in parliament by making one or more pledges and working to implement them. Participants of the Conference are encouraged to sign up to the campaign via the online form available at the following address: <https://www.ipu.org/campaign/pledge-now>.