



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Youths in the parliaments of the Least Developed Countries

Access, Participation, Representation

Youths in LDCs

287 of the **800million** people who live in LDCs are primary or secondary school aged



Youths in LDC Parliaments

Distribution of young MPs by age, across both houses of parliament in 2022



- **1.9%** under 30s in LDCs vs 2.6% globally
- **18%** under 40s in LDCs vs 17.2% globally
- **31.2%** under 45s in LDCs vs 29.7% globally

Youths in Leadership Positions

Youth speakers in single and lower houses of parliaments in 2022



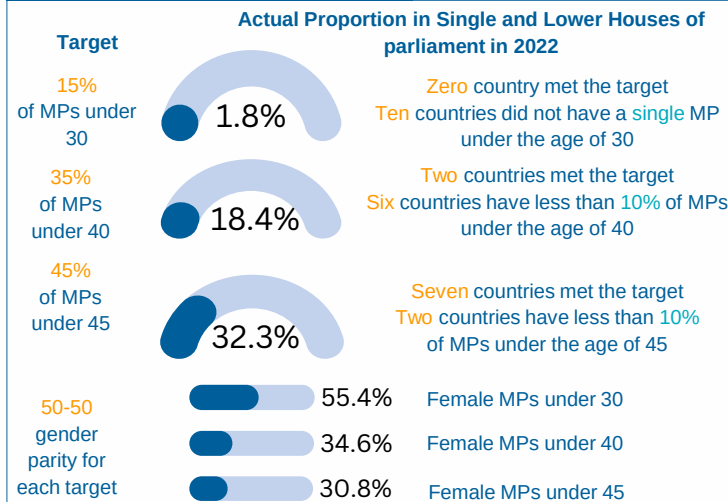
- **Zero** under 30s in both LDCs and globally
- **Zero** under 40s in LDCs vs 5% globally
- **7.7%** under 45s in LDCs vs 9.9% globally

Youth Representation

Strengthens democracy by giving the political system legitimacy, and building trust among young people



Progress towards IPU targets



Barriers to Youth Representation

Legal obstacles



Lack of financial resources



Lack of access to networks



Gender inequality



Youth Quotas

In February 2023, only **two** out of the 46 LDCs have youth quotas for parliament. These are **Rwanda** and **Uganda**



Eligibility

75% of single and lower houses of parliament had a "waiting time" between the age of eligibility to vote and the age of eligibility to run for parliamentary office in 2021

100% of upper houses of parliament have a "waiting time"



Facilitates youth-friendly policies since it allows the voices of young people to be heard

Builds peaceful and stable societies as youth have a viable nonviolent avenue to channel their grievances and seek redress



Closing the Gap on Youth Representation in Parliament

Research to inform advocacy efforts

Adoption of **policies** such as youth quotas, which encourage youth participation in politics

Implementation of particular **strategies** for parliamentary candidates in their 20s and 30s, young women, and other marginalized groups

Reform of the **political system** to facilitate young people's access to politics including reducing or removing the "waiting time" and aligning the voting age with the age of eligibility to run for parliamentary office

