



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# The Empowerment Series

## Sixth briefing: *Youth in climate negotiations*

31 May 2023

Draft concept note

### Context and rationale

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to global prosperity and development. Due to emissions of greenhouse gases caused by human activity, the world is on a warming trajectory that will leave it irrevocably changed.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)), agreed in 1992, is the main international treaty on fighting climate change. The [Paris Agreement](#), adopted by all UNFCCC Parties in December 2015, is the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate agreement. The UNFCCC's top decision-making body is the annual Conference of the Parties (COP). All Parties to the Convention can take part, most often represented by government officials. Representatives of business, international organizations and interest groups have observer status.

Young people have been at the forefront of the climate fight in recent years. Youth climate movements, such as Fridays for Future, have gained momentum and simultaneously the demand by young people to formalize their participation at COPs has grown. In 2009, UNFCCC recognized YOUNGO as its official youth constituency. However, not all national delegations at COPs include youth representatives or provide them with the opportunity to play more than an observer role. There is a need for more and stronger spaces for youth negotiators in every delegation and at every COP. Where young people are included in national delegations, they must be granted the possibility to have an influence over decisions.

The IPU has promoted the involvement of parliaments in climate action for more than a decade. The IPU Strategy for 2022-2026 designates Climate Change as one of the four policy goals of the Organization. The IPU adopted a [Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change](#) in 2016 which calls upon parliaments to establish legislative responses to climate change that are consistent with national climate goals and the Paris Agreement. In 2023, the IPU launched a new campaign called [Parliaments for the Planet](#) to mobilize parliaments and parliamentarians to act on the climate emergency. The campaign encourages parliaments to reduce their carbon footprint and helps them step up action to implement the Paris Agreement.

In June 2022, hundreds of young MPs gathered in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, for the Eighth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians and called for: "Integrating the needs and interests of women and youth into climate policy and action by involving women and youth in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of climate change strategies".

Following up on this call and to mobilize young MPs on solutions from a policy-making perspective, the IPU is organizing the sixth online briefing of its Empowerment Series for young parliamentarians on ***Youth in climate negotiations***.

### Objectives

The aims of the online briefing on *Youth in climate negotiations* are to:

- Inform young parliamentarians about the state of youth engagement in climate negotiations.
- Discuss how young MPs can advocate for more youth participation in climate policymaking nationally and for more youth participation in climate negotiations internationally.
- Share good practices on how young MPs can bring youth climate movements closer to parliament and government.

**Methodology:** Experts on climate negotiations will brief young parliamentarians on the subject matter. The briefing will be followed by a discussion among young MPs to share good practices from their respective countries on youth in climate negotiations. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French, Arabic and Spanish.

**Date, virtual venue and time:** The online briefing will take place on Zoom, on 31 May 2023, from 13:00 to 15:00 CEST (Geneva time).

### Registration link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqdOihqTwuHNHfDtsfWnBPNAMUNCUfd3Sa>