



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# 148th IPU Assembly

## Geneva, 23–27 March 2024

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29 February 2024

## Forum of Young Parliamentarians

### Provisional agenda

Sunday, 24 March 2024, 14:30 – 17:30  
Plenaries B&C – Level 0 – CICG

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Opening remarks**
3. **Updates on youth participation**

The Forum will take stock of recent developments in youth participation in parliament. The young parliamentarians will reflect on successes and current challenges, draw conclusions and make recommendations. They will be informed of recent and upcoming IPU activities in support of youth participation.

4. **Contribution to the work of the 148th Assembly**

In line with the objective of the Forum to mainstream youth perspectives in the work and decisions of the Assembly, members of the Forum will exchange views from a youth perspective on:

- the theme of the General Debate of the 148th Assembly, *Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding*
- the draft resolutions under consideration at the 148th Assembly, entitled *Addressing the social and humanitarian impact of autonomous weapon systems and artificial intelligence*, to be considered by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security; and *Partnerships for climate action: Promoting access to affordable green energy, and ensuring innovation, responsibility and equity*, to be considered by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

5. **Q&A session: Putting the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* and *Not Too Young to Run* campaigns into action**

The *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign calls on parliamentarians and others to make one or more of the six pledges identified by young MPs to be most impactful in enhancing youth participation in parliament. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians is holding a series of sessions to dig deeper into each of the six campaign pledges to learn from each other and take action on youth participation. At recent Assemblies, the Forum has focused on Pledge 3 of the campaign pertaining to supporting youth channels in parliament, Pledge 1 on the promotion of youth quotas, and Pledge 5 on mentoring young aspirants to parliamentary office. At this Assembly, the Forum will hold a Q&A session on Pledge 2 of the campaign, on aligning the age of eligibility to hold office with the voting age.

According to the [2023 edition of the IPU's report on Youth participation in national parliaments](#), 70% of parliamentary chambers impose a “waiting time” between a country’s voting age and the age of eligibility for office. On average, in lower chambers this wait is 3.4 years, while in upper chambers it is over 10 years. This waiting time not only discriminates against young people of voting age who wish to hold public office, but research shows it also contributes to lower levels of youth representation overall.

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The IPU's *I Say Yes!* campaign, as well as the joint United Nations, IPU and civil society organizations *Not Too Young to Run* campaign, inspired by the movement of the same name in Nigeria, were created to raise awareness of this gap and inspire action to eliminate it.

This Q&A session is for young MPs to discuss good practices and challenges in lowering the age of eligibility to hold office. It will provide a platform for them to learn from each other and inspire action by young MPs in their own countries.

A special guest, Dr. Felipe Paullier, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, will take part in this session and inform the young MPs about his mandate and the global *Not Too Young to Run* campaign.

Young parliamentarians are invited to come prepared to share experiences on one or more of the following questions (speaking time of three minutes):

- Was the age of eligibility to run for office lowered in recent years in your country? What are the success factors that led to such a change? What lessons learned or good practices can you share to inspire others?
- Have there been efforts to lower the age of eligibility in your country? What challenges have you encountered? How can the IPU and/or other young MPs or parliaments support such efforts?
- In countries where the age of eligibility was recently lowered, what have been the impacts of the change? For example, in terms of the number of candidates and parliamentarians subsequently elected, and in the overall engagement of young people in politics.
- How can young parliamentarians mobilize support across generations and party lines to lead the way in lowering ages of eligibility?

## **6. Preparations for the 149th Assembly (October 2024)**

As per usual practice, the Forum will prepare for the 149th Assembly by discussing from a youth perspective the forthcoming resolution on the agenda of the IPU Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights: *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*. The members of the Forum will be invited to approve the appointment of a rapporteur nominated by the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians to provide a youth overview report on this subject to the respective Standing Committee.

## **7. Any other business**