



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

148th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS Geneva (Switzerland), 23–27 March 2024

Forum of Young Parliamentarians

Youth-related activities in 2023-2024

Report on activities carried out since October 2023 and upcoming activities

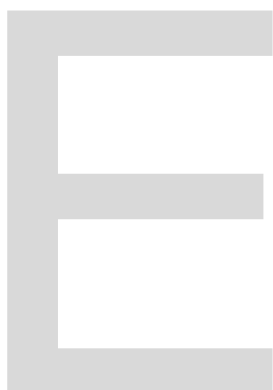
The IPU works for the empowerment of young parliamentarians to strengthen and rejuvenate democracies and make them more representative of all generations. In 2010, IPU Member Parliaments adopted a landmark [resolution](#) to promote youth participation in the democratic process. Despite this clear political commitment and tentative progress, the level of youth representation in parliament, as measured regularly by the IPU, remains low. Half the world's population is under 30, while only 2.8% of MPs globally are 30 and under and less than half of them are young women.

To address the gap in youth representation, the IPU launched the [I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!](#) campaign with six pledges identified by young parliamentarians as the most impactful ways to generate change: promoting youth quotas, aligning the age of eligibility with that of voting, supporting youth channels in parliament, empowering young parliamentarians, mentoring young aspirants and advocating for youth participation. As of 16 February 2024, close to 1500 changemakers have already joined the campaign, including 700 MPs, and more than 60 Speakers of Parliament, Heads of State, United Nations agencies and other international organizations.

Since October 2023, the IPU has organized the following activities to enhance youth participation in parliament and in the IPU:

- Meetings of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians and its Board were held at the 147th Assembly in Luanda (October 2023). An online informal meeting of the Board was also held on 7 November 2023.
- The 2023 IPU *Youth participation in national parliaments* report was launched.
- A special event entitled *How can women and young MPs make the difference in climate governance? Partnerships for change* was held in the blue zone at COP 28 (6 December 2023).
- Promotion of the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign continued, including through a national launch of the campaign in Chile (December 2023).
- In the framework of the IPU's Empowerment Series, a training session for young MPs on leadership and communication (28 November 2023) and a briefing for young MPs on equal care for equal representation (5 March 2024) were held.
- Young MPs contributed to international deliberations.

More information on these activities is provided below, along with a list of future activities.



#IPU148

1. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES SINCE OCTOBER 2023

Meetings of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians and its Board at the 147th Assembly

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held on 24 October 2023. It brought together 86 young MPs from 57 countries, 41% of whom were women.

The Forum members took stock of youth participation in their countries and shared experiences and good practices, including recent elections where higher numbers of young MPs took office, young MPs taking on leadership roles at international conferences such as COP 28, and enhanced outreach to youth constituents. The new 2023 report *Youth participation in national parliaments* was also presented, underlining the persistent low levels of youth participation in parliament and steps to take action. The Forum also held hearings with candidates for President of the IPU.

At its meeting, the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians reiterated its call to amend the Statutes and Rules of the IPU to lower the age limit to be considered a young MP to 40 years old. They also decided to take steps to facilitate the establishment of a youth hub within the framework of the IPU Centre for Innovation in Parliament (CIP). An informal meeting of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held online on 7 November 2023 to discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Out of the 622 total number of MPs who took part in the 147th IPU Assembly, 188 were young MPs, amounting to 31% of delegates. This surpassed the Forum's target of at least 25% of parliamentary delegates being young MPs, giving further impetus to aim higher by lowering the age limit to 40.

Launch of the 2023 IPU report on Youth participation in national parliaments

The 2023 IPU report [Youth participation in national parliaments](#) was launched at the 147th IPU Assembly. The report provides updated data on levels of youth participation in national parliaments, including the ages of MPs, disaggregated data based on gender, information on youth quotas, committees and caucuses of young MPs, and more.

Key findings from the report include:

- Only 2.8% of the world's parliamentarians are 30 years of age and under, and only 18.8% are 40 and under.
- 39% of parliaments have no MPs 30 years of age and under.
- Women remain disproportionately underrepresented compared to men across all age categories.
- 70% of chambers of parliament impose a "waiting time" between voting age and age of eligibility for office.

Drawing on interviews with young MPs, the report also provides key takeaways on the implementation of the six *Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign pledges.

Event in the blue zone of COP 28 on partnerships for change with women and young MPs

The IPU held its first ever event in the blue zone of a COP Conference on 6 December 2023 in Dubai, entitled *How can women and young MPs make the difference: Partnerships for change*. The event was preceded by discussions held by the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians to enhance links with youth groups on climate action, and an *Empowerment Series* briefing on youth in climate negotiations held in May 2023. The event brought together over 60 young MPs and women MPs, as well as leaders and representatives from civil society and international organizations to strategize on how to better partner on climate action. The role of parliaments in promoting youth negotiators as part of official government delegations was emphasized, as was better partnering with scientific and research institutions to ensure an evidence-based approach to climate policies. MPs also expressed a desire to work more closely with youth groups to increase their ability to hold governments accountable for climate commitments and draft laws that would enable their countries to implement needed measures.

***I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign**

As of 16 February 2024, close to 1500 changemakers have signed up to the *I Say Yes!* campaign, including 700 MPs, and more than 60 Speakers of Parliament, Heads of State, United Nations agencies and other international organizations.

The IPU continued to support parliaments in launching the campaign and implementing campaign pledges. In December 2023, the campaign was launched in Chile, with dozens of new MPs from the country signing up.

Discussions are also ongoing to support the launch and implementation of the campaign in other parliaments, including in Myanmar, Thailand, Zambia, and countries and transitional parliaments in the Sahel.

Empowerment Series for young parliamentarians

The IPU continued a series of capacity-building activities as part of its Empowerment Series for young MPs.

Since October 2023, the IPU has hosted two events: a training workshop for young MPs on leadership and communication (28 November 2023) and a briefing for young MPs on *Equal care for equal representation* (5 March 2024 on the occasion of International Women's Day). The two events brought together a total of 57 participants (parliamentarians and parliamentary staff) from 26 countries. Among the participants, 24 were young women (42%).

During the briefing on equal care for equal representation, participants discussed the impact of equal care on gender equality. They took stock of advances and challenges in implementing policies and initiatives on equal care, including in parliament. Recommendations were made on how young parliamentarians can accelerate progress in equal care for young women's representation in parliament. These included engaging men in advocacy for care policies, starting a fathers' caucus, and becoming caring parliaments by providing fully for the caring needs of men and women MPs and staff as they carry out their parliamentary duties. Mr. Felipe Paullier, Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs from the UN Youth Office contributed to the briefing and called for removing cultural and structural barriers to meaningful youth participation.

Strengthening links with youth organizations; young MPs contributing to international deliberations

In line with the Forum's objectives to strengthen links between parliaments and young people and contribute to international deliberations, various activities took place:

- Young parliamentarians participating at COP 28
 - The special event, *How can women and young MPs make the difference: Partnerships for change* (Dubai, 6 December 2023)
 - Parliamentary meetings at COP 28 (Dubai, 5 and 6 December 2023)
- The Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, *Putting an end to conflicts: Prescriptions for a peaceful future* (8 and 9 February 2024)

2. UPCOMING YOUTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN 2023 AND 2024

- The Tenth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, to take place 12–14 September 2024 in Yerevan (Armenia).
- Support activities to help parliaments promote and implement the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign will continue, including to help launch the campaign in national parliaments and provide technical support to implement pledges.

- Continued online and offline training for young MPs, such as IPU modules on leadership, mentorship and communication for young parliamentarians.
- Continued online briefings as part of the Empowerment Series.
- Celebration of International Youth Day on 12 August 2024.
- Contribution of young MPs to international deliberations, including the the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum (16–18 April 2024) and the World Bank Global Young MP Initiative (April 2024).

Partnerships

Partnerships exist and are maintained with the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the World Bank Group, the Kofi Annan Foundation (KAF), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), Plan International, various international, regional and national youth organizations, academics and many others.