

Tenth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians

Avoiding lost generations: Preserving education and employment in all circumstances

12 – 14 September 2024, Yerevan, Armenia

General Information Note

BACKGROUND

In 2010, at the 122nd IPU Assembly in Bangkok, Thailand, IPU Member Parliaments adopted a landmark resolution entitled *Youth participation in the democratic process*. The resolution stated that achieving meaningful democracy required the full and active participation of youth and youth organizations in democratic processes at the local, national, regional and international levels. In that spirit, in 2013, the IPU established the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, a formal and permanent body dedicated to enhancing the quantitative and qualitative participation of young people in parliaments and in the IPU.

In 2014, the IPU established the annual Global Conference mechanism to contribute to: (i) strengthening the role of young parliamentarians and youth participation in parliamentary activities; (ii) making recommendations from the perspective of young people's views on the activities and agenda of the IPU; and (iii) networking, solidarity and capacity-building, broadening young people's approaches to issues of mutual concern.

Nine Global Conferences have taken place, on various topics including: youth participation in politics and democracy (Switzerland, 2014); democracy, peace and prosperity (Japan, 2015); the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Zambia, 2016); economic, social and political inclusion (Canada, 2017); the promotion of sustainability and the protection of the interests of future generations (Azerbaijan, 2018); achieving the SDGs and empowering youth through social welfare (Paraguay, 2019); post-COVID-19 youth approach (2021, online conference format); responding to climate change (Egypt, 2022); and digital transformation and innovation (Viet Nam, 2023).

DATE AND VENUE

The Tenth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians will be held in Armenia under the theme *Avoiding lost generations: Preserving education and employment in all circumstances*. It will take place from 12 to 14 September 2024.

Official working sessions of the Conference will be conducted at the Seven Visions, The Dvin, on 12 and 13 September 2024. The third day of the Conference (14 September 2024) is reserved for a cultural programme organized by the Host Parliament.

PARTICIPATION

All IPU Member Parliaments will be invited to send a delegation of young MPs (**under 45 years of age**) to attend the Conference. As a rule, the number of MPs in each unicameral parliament's delegation should not exceed four. Bi-cameral parliaments can register up to eight MPs. Parliaments are invited to send a gender-balanced delegation, including a maximum of two parliamentary staff members.

The IPU Associate Members and Observers that work on youth-related matters are also invited to take part in the Conference, as are select international and regional youth associations, organizations and parliaments.

ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

In keeping with standard IPU practice, all delegates will have equal speaking rights. In order to ensure that the discussions are as vibrant, dynamic and respectful as possible, the following rules will apply:

- There will be no advance list of speakers on any agenda item. Chairs of Conference sessions will draw up a list of speakers from among the participants who request the floor at the beginning of a

particular discussion segment. Session Chairs will endeavour to ensure gender and regional diversity among the speakers selected.

- Participants are asked not to read out prepared statements, but rather to engage naturally in lively discussions. Subject to arrangements that the Chairs of sessions may make depending on the circumstances, oral contributions may not exceed three minutes. Participants may speak several times on each item, particularly to respond to other statements.
- Participants shall not engage in abusive language that is defamatory, intolerant, sexist, racist, xenophobic, or that incites hatred and violence. The Chairs of sessions shall have the prerogative to call a speaker to order when the latter does not keep to the subject under discussion or prejudices the debate by using abusive, discriminatory or hateful language. If the disturbance continues, or if a further offence is committed, the speaker may be denied the right to continue to speak. The Chair may decide to deactivate the speaker's microphone.

LANGUAGES AND INTERPRETATION

English and French are the official working languages of the IPU. Nonetheless, simultaneous interpretation will be available into and from Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia will provide a Simultaneous Interpreting System (SIS). A limited number of additional interpretation booths will be available for those national delegations that wish to bring their own team of interpreters. These will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Requests for an additional simultaneous interpretation booth should be made by completing the Form in Annex 2 and emailing it to the Host Parliament. The delegations themselves will cover the booth rental costs and the fees of their interpreters.

The working languages for the activities and events other than the Conference sessions will be English or French.

REGISTRATION

Parliaments and organizations invited to the Conference are requested to register their participants online no later than 31 August 2024 at the following link: <https://registration.ipu.org/10GCYP>. Kindly be advised that **registrations made after this date will not be guaranteed.**

In order to facilitate the welcome service upon arrival and departure, as well as other logistical arrangements provided by the Host Parliament, delegations are requested to complete the Travel Form (Annex 1) and send it to the email addresses specified in the Annex. Delegations are also invited to indicate each individual's intention regarding participation in the cultural activities on 14 September 2024 (as part of the registration process at the link above).

For any questions, the contact information for the IPU and the Host Parliament can be found below:

<u>Inter-Parliamentary Union</u> 5, Chemin du Pommier 1218 Grand Saconnex Switzerland Email: postbox@ipu.org Tel.: +41 22 919 41 50	<u>Secretariat of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia</u> 19 Marshal Baghramyan Avenue Yerevan 0095 Email: ipuyouth10@parliament.am Tel.: +374 11 513 475 WhatsApp: +374 55 630462 WhatsApp: +374 77 678008
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VISAS

To enter Armenia, all Conference delegates need to have a passport that is valid for at least six months from the date of arrival. Delegates from some countries or territories may also require a visa to enter Armenia. The following are the options to apply for an Armenian visa:

All persons attending the Conference should check in good time whether they need a visa to travel to Armenia. Please visit: <https://www.mfa.am/en/visa/>

Armenian Embassies/Consulates around the world will issue (free) official visas to all participants in the Tenth IPU Global Conference who require a visa.

If a participant is eligible and prefers an E-VISA, the electronic system can be used but requires payment as it is intended for issuing visitor visas only.

However, a full refund can be obtained on an *ad-hoc* basis upon the applicant's request. The cost for an E-VISA for the Tenth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians (one entry, up to 21 days) is 8 EUR or 8 USD). It is recommended that you pay using PayPal.

For refund requests, please send an email to payments@mfa.am ensuring you write “**Refund Request - IPU Global Conference**” in the subject line.

Should you have any visa queries, please contact visa@mfa.am, ensuring you write “**Tenth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians**” in the subject line.

Link to download **visa application form**:

<https://www.mfa.am/filemanager/consular/visa/2022/01-ARM-VISA-APPLICATION-2022.pdf>

E-VISA:

<https://evisa.mfa.am/>

Attachments required are:

- Confirmation of registration
- One recent photo (to be uploaded)
- Passport valid for the whole period of stay in Armenia
- Health insurance is not mandatory but strongly recommended

Entry Permits to enter Armenia will be issued before travel to those participants who cannot obtain a visa from the nearest Armenian Embassy/Consulate and are not eligible for an E-VISA. To request an entry permit, please contact the Host Parliament (jpuyouth10@parliament.am). The deadline to request an entry permit is no later than one week before travel is expected.

The participants of the Conference who enter Armenia based on an **Entry Permit** will need to immediately bring their passports and visa application forms to the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia in order to obtain a visa sticker in their passport. The process can be done in person or through the Protocol department of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Delegates will bear the costs of their accommodation and subsistence. The official partner of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia is All Hotels LLC. The designated hotels for the Conference can be reserved via the following link: <https://jpuyouth10.allhotels.am>.

FLIGHTS AND WELCOME SERVICES

Delegates are responsible for arranging and financing their own air travel to Yerevan. Upon arrival, delegates will be welcomed by staff upon exiting the plane and taken to the Official Delegations' Lounge. The Host Parliament Secretariat will provide delegates with ground transfers between the airport and their designated hotels. This service does not include a private car and driver. If you wish to make such arrangements, you may do so at your own expense. The Host Parliament Secretariat will provide transportation between the official hotels and the Conference venue.

The Host Parliament will set up information counters at the Zvartnots international airport (Yerevan) and the designated hotels, based on the flight schedules of the delegations attending the Conference. These services will be available between 11 and 15 September 2024.

To ensure smooth entry/exit upon arrival/departure as well as transfers between the airport and the designated hotels, it is imperative that delegates provide their flight details by filling in the Travel Form (Annex 1) and returning it to the Secretariat no later than 31 August 2024. Please note that transportation will only be provided to delegates staying in the designated hotels listed in the link provided above and not to those staying elsewhere.

LOCAL TRANSPORT

The Host Parliament will provide ground transfers between Zvartnots airport (Yerevan) and the designated hotels between 11 and 15 September 2024.

Delegates who require private transport are recommended to contact their respective Embassy in Yerevan or make their own arrangements and bear the cost.

The Host Parliament will provide transportation to the venues of the official events as specified in the programme of the Conference. Shuttle buses will be arranged from the designated hotels to the event venue, and the bus timetable will be made available at the designated hotels.

LUNCH

Buffet lunches will be provided on 12 and 13 September 2024 to all delegates at the Seven Visions, The Dvin. Lunch will also be provided during the cultural activity on Saturday, 14 September.

RECEPTION AND EVENTS

Receptions hosted by the National Assembly of Armenia will take place at Seven Visions, The Dvin on 11 September at 19:00, on 12 September at 18:00 in the National Assembly and on 13 September at 19:30 at Seven Visions, The Dvin, hosted by H.E. Mr. Alen Simonyan, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.

On Saturday, 14 September, a visit to the Garni pagan temple and lunch will be organized by the National Assembly of Armenia.

Further details will be provided in due course.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

First aid service will be available at the designated hotels, and the Conference and official event venues. Delegates are responsible for the cost of all personal medical services and must have health insurance prior to arriving in Armenia. Coverage must include medical care received at facilities such as hospitals, clinics and doctors' offices.

Individuals under special medical treatment are encouraged to bring sufficient quantities of the medication they need.

It is also important that participants with prescribed medication (medications, prescription glasses, etc.) bring a copy of their prescriptions. Medication should not be placed in checked-in luggage but in carry-on luggage on board the aircraft to avoid any problems resulting from lost or delayed luggage.

SECURITY

All necessary measures will be taken to ensure the security of all Conference delegates and activities. Participants are required to always wear their ID badges visibly during official events. All lost badges must be reported immediately to the Host Parliament.

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK

The Host Parliament will have an information and registration desk during the following hours:

- 11 September, from 09:00 to 18:00 in all hotels (registration and information)
- 12 September, from 08:00 to 18:00 at Seven Visions, The Dvin (registration) and in all hotels (information only)
- 13 September, from 08:00 to 17:30 at Seven Visions, The Dvin (registration) and in all hotels (information only)

CLIMATE

In September, the average minimum temperature in Armenia is 11°C, with an average daytime high of 25°C.

CURRENCY

Armenia's national currency is the Dram (AMD), and the exchange rate is approximately 386 AMD to 1 US dollar. While Armenian banks and money changers deal in almost all currencies, it is recommended to bring bank notes or traveller's cheques in major currencies. Major credit cards (Visa, Mastercard and American Express) are widely accepted.

TELECOMMUNICATION

The country code for Armenia is +374, and the local area codes for Yerevan are 10 and 11. When dialing with the country code, omit the 0 (zero) and add the phone number: +374 10 + phone number. For international calls, use the format 00 + country code + area code + phone number.

Telephone services are available in hotels. Pre-paid mobile telephone SIM cards can be obtained in hotels and local cellular shops (a valid photo ID or passport is required for activation).

LOCAL TIME

Armenia is in the GMT+3 time zone.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

In Armenia, emergency telephone numbers are as follows:

- Ambulance: 103
- Police: 102
- Crisis management centre / Rescue service: 911

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TRAVEL DETAILS

Please complete and return the completed form to the **Host Parliament and IPU**
no later than 31 August 2024 at the following email addresses: ipuyouth10@parliament.am, postbox@ipu.org

DELEGATION: (country/organization)

A. Contact Information

First name		Middle name		Last name	
Tel.		Fax		Email	
Department		Position		Affiliation	
Mailing address					
City/State		Postal code		Country	

B. Participant Information (please add more rows if necessary)

Name (Mr./Ms.)	Position		Date	Time	Flight no.	From/To
1.		Point of entry				
		Arrival				
		Departure				
		Point of exit				
2.		Point of entry				
		Arrival				
		Departure				
		Point of exit				
3.		Point of entry				
		Arrival				
		Departure				
		Point of Exit				
4.		Point of Entry				
		Arrival				
		Departure				
		Point of exit				
5.		Point of entry				
		Arrival				
		Departure				
		Point of exit				
6.		Point of entry				
		Arrival				
		Departure				
		Point of exit				

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INTERPRETATION BOOTHS REGISTRATION

Please complete and return the completed form to the **Host Parliament** at the following email address: ipuyouth10@parliament.am

DELEGATION: (country/organization)

Contact information

First name		Middle name		Last name	
Tel.		Fax		Email	
Department		Position		Affiliation	
Mailing address					
City/State		Postal code		Country	

Date	Dd/mm	Time	hh:mm–hh:mm
Date	Dd/mm	Time	hh:mm–hh:mm
Date	Dd/mm	Time	hh:mm–hh:mm

- Note: Booths will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and payment must be made directly to the provider.