



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

T +41 22 919 41 50  
F +41 22 919 41 60  
E [postbox@ipu.org](mailto:postbox@ipu.org)  
[www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)

Chemin du Pommier 5  
Case postale 330  
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva – Switzerland

# Speech by Dr. Tulia Ackson, IPU President

149th Assembly and related meetings  
Forum of Young Parliamentarians – Opening speech

Geneva, 14 October 2024

Mr. Secretary General,  
Mr. President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians,  
Dear young parliamentarians,

Happy 10th anniversary to the Forum of Young Parliamentarians!

I am extremely proud to lead an organization that established, ten years ago already, such a powerful platform dedicated to promoting youth political participation and empowerment.

It was a timely and absolutely crucial decision for the IPU to place youth at the centre of its work as early as 2010, by adopting the ground-breaking resolution on *Youth participation in the democratic process* at the 122nd Assembly.

I am pleased that, since then, youth participation has consistently been a strategic priority of our Organization, demonstrating our collective commitment to the inclusion and leadership of young people in our parliaments, at the IPU, and in society at large.

I am even more pleased to see the concrete results that we have collectively achieved.

Over the past decade, the Forum has united you all and helped you to support each other. It has served to open up our organization to the world's youth globally and at grassroots level. It has succeeded in mainstreaming a youth perspective in our work, our deliberations and our decisions.

It has made great strides in building momentum and showing the way on enhancing youth political representation and leadership. And for me, the greatest success of this Forum has been its role as an incubator for innovative solutions to the challenges our world is facing.

Mr. President of the Board, I want to commend your efforts and those of your fellow members of the Board to bring the IPU and our parliaments closer to young people and youth organizations. By so doing, you are advancing one of the key objectives of the Forum.

I am particularly excited about the special open session for youth organizations that you will be hosting during this Assembly — the first of its kind. This is an important step towards greater inclusion and youth-to-youth collaboration.

Also, I am particularly proud of how gender-sensitive and gender-equal the Forum is. Gender parity in the composition of the Board and gender balance in the participation in the Forum are sources of great pride for me. The focus that this Forum places on the political empowerment, participation and leadership of young women in particular can be game changing.

I stand by you in such crucial endeavours!

I am also thrilled that our Member Parliaments are benefiting from your work. I am really pleased that we are offering direct and impactful support at the national level by providing capacity-building workshops and training courses for young parliamentarians.

I am excited that this Forum is inspiring and helping the creation of caucuses of young parliamentarians in various countries. The Empowerment Series for young MPs has been a great success in providing policy-related briefings and training to so many young MPs from all around the globe.

Dear colleagues,

An anniversary is a celebration. But as one matures – believe me – an anniversary also becomes an opportunity to see where one stands and to craft the next chapter.

Looking at the future, the stakes are high. We need to use our individual and collective power to provide employment, education, social and health services, and equality to all young men and women, leaving no one behind.

We need to work for a more representative, transparent, open, safe and accountable political environment. We also need to make climate action and the use of technology and innovation for the good of everyone our priorities. Above all, we need peace, and we need our youth to be safe everywhere.

In all this, please be assured that I stand ready to work hand-in-hand with you.

The next decade holds great promise, and I believe we can achieve even more together.

I thank you for listening!