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IPU's Empowerment Series for Young Parliamentarians Beijing +30: Young MPs leading the next chapter for inclusive democracy

Zoom, 26 March 2025, 13:00 to 15:00 CET (Geneva time)

In 1995, governments adopted the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a global blueprint for advancing women's rights. In 2025, the world marks the thirtieth anniversary of this declaration (Beijing +30), including through a review of country implementation during the Commission on the Status of Women taking place in March. In parallel, the IPU has dedicated its work in 2025 to gender equality, making it the theme of the year.

This momentum for gender equality comes at a critical time where the world faces headwinds. Only 27% of members of parliament globally are women. Progress to increase women's representation has also been slowing down, with the proportion of seats held by women growing by only 0.1 percentage points in 2024 (as of October). Progress is also uneven with respect to women from marginalized groups – including young women, indigenous and minority women, and those in vulnerable situations – who continue to face higher barriers to participation. For example, although violence, harassment and intimidation of women MPs is widespread – affecting between 80% to 85% of them – IPU research shows that this is even more common among young MPs under 40 years of age, women who are unmarried and women from minority groups.

Women's empowerment is facing backlash in many countries, further threatening progress. [According to UN Women](#), 24% of countries say that the backlash on gender equality has undermined the implementation of commitments that could unlock equality, rights and protection for all women and girls. Factors that affect rollbacks include conflict and war as well as opposition to reproductive health and rights.

March 2025 is a pivotal moment for equality, and young MPs are key to help drive a new chapter for gender equality that benefits all women and communities.

The aims of the briefing are, therefore, to:

- Raise awareness among young MPs on the Beijing +30 review. Contributions will be made by international experts, including civil society leaders of the Generation Equality Forum.
- Share good practices to prioritize young women's empowerment and political participation. Participants are invited to come prepared to showcase such good practices.
- Reflect on key pillars of action that young MPs can take to promote young women's rights, empowerment and political participation.

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

The briefing is being organized under the WYDE | Women's Leadership Initiative, a collaborative effort funded by the European Union and implemented by UN Women, together with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), to advance women's full and effective political participation and decision-making at all levels, especially those most often left furthest behind.

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