



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



# 150th IPU Assembly

## Tashkent, Uzbekistan (5–9 April 2025)

Forum of Young Parliamentarians

## Youth-related activities in 2024–2025

### Report on activities carried out since October 2024 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, which led to the creation of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

The Forum held its first meeting in 2014. In October 2024, the IPU amended its [Statutes and Rules](#): the age to be considered a young parliamentarian was lowered to “below the age of 40 years”, and the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians was renamed the “Bureau of Young Parliamentarians”.

The Forum and its Bureau advance youth participation by: monitoring the age demographics of parliaments, as reflected in the IPU’s [Parline](#) database and its [Youth participation in national parliaments](#) report series; organizing the annual Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians; empowering young MPs via training courses and *Empowerment Series* briefings; providing national support to parliaments; and facilitating the engagement of young MPs in the larger global youth agenda.

Despite tentative progress, the level of youth representation in parliament, as measured regularly by the IPU, remains low. Half of the world’s population is under age 30, while only 2.8% of MPs globally are aged 30 or under, with about half of those young MPs being women.

To address the gap in youth representation, the IPU launched the [I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!](#) campaign, comprising six pledges identified by young MPs: 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 17 March 2025, more than 2,000 changemakers have already joined the campaign, including 882 MPs and 72 Speakers of parliament.

Since October 2024, 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 Bureau at the 149th Assembly in Geneva (October 2024), which marked the 10th anniversary of the Forum and included an open session of the Forum with youth leaders, as well as a consultation on improving data collection on youth participation in parliament
- Two *Empowerment Series* sessions for young MPs: [Zero tolerance for violence against women in politics](#) (9 December 2024) and [Beijing +30: Young MPs leading the next chapter for inclusive democracy](#) (26 March 2025)
- National activities to promote youth participation and empower young MPs: a capacity-building activity on youth, peace and security in Burkina Faso (December 2024) and training on leadership and communication in Thailand (January 2025)
- An intergenerational dialogue, with contributions from young MPs, on supporting women’s political participation (14 February 2025)
- Contribution of young MPs to international deliberations
- Continued promotion of the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign

More information about these and future activities can be found below.

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## 1. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES SINCE OCTOBER 2024

### **Meetings of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians and its Bureau at the 149th Assembly**

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians met on 14 October 2024. The meeting brought together 65 young MPs from 47 countries, 36% of whom were women, which was a lower proportion than at the previous meeting of the Forum.

The 10th anniversary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians set the tone for this and other related meetings during the Assembly. Former and current members of the Forum took stock of the last 10 years and shared testimonials on the Forum's lasting impact in strengthening their work as MPs and in creating a united movement for youth at the IPU. Forum members then reported on youth participation in their parliaments and shared experiences and good practices, including recent elections where proportions of young MPs had changed, as well as the building of bridges with youth and children's parliaments. The young MPs then contributed their perspectives on the work of the 149th Assembly and held a Q&A session on taking the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign to the next level.

At its meeting, the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians welcomed the amendment to the IPU's Rules and Statutes to lower the age to be considered a young MP to under 40 years of age. Members of the Bureau exchanged views on the trajectory of the Forum and its Bureau over the past 10 years and identified new avenues for action in the years ahead. They called for the relationships that had been built with the United Nations youth mechanisms to remain a priority, as well as for increased attention and action on young women's participation in 2025, in line with the IPU's overarching theme for the year.

On 16 October 2024, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians held its first ever open session, bringing together young MPs and youth leaders. A dynamic and vibrant dialogue between these two groups took place, including through video contributions from around the world. The youth leaders raised their priority issues and aspirations with the young MPs and discussed continued obstacles to political participation. The young MPs and youth leaders agreed that it was essential to continue strengthening their links in order to mutually empower one another and to better advance youth participation.

Also on 16 October 2024, a consultation was also held, bringing together parliamentarians, academics and practitioners to review the data points and indicators used by the IPU on youth participation in national parliaments and to share insights on how they could be improved and expanded. The outcomes of the consultation included new perspectives on the barriers faced by young people, as well as a renewed focus on the importance of further examining their pathways to parliament. These reflections will inform the drafting of the next report in the IPU's *Youth participation in national parliaments* series.

Out of the 615 MPs from Member Parliaments who took part in the 149th IPU Assembly, 153 (24.9%) were young MPs under age 45 (the threshold for consideration as a "young parliamentarian" prior to the amendment of the IPU's Statutes and Rules).

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

As of 17 March 2025, more than 2,000 changemakers have signed up to the *I Say Yes!* campaign, including 882 MPs and 72 Speakers of parliament, several Heads of State, and heads of UN agencies and other international organizations.

The IPU continued to support parliaments in implementing campaign pledges, especially through national training courses and activities in Burkina Faso and Thailand. Further details can be found below.

### ***Empowerment Series* for young parliamentarians**

The IPU continued a series of capacity-building activities as part of its *Empowerment Series* for young MPs. A briefing entitled *Zero tolerance for violence against women in politics* was held on 9 December 2024, and a session entitled *Beijing +30: Young MPs leading the next chapter for*

*inclusive democracy* was held on 26 March 2025. The two events brought together a total of 56 participants (parliamentarians and parliamentary staff) from 26 countries. The participants included 30 young parliamentarians, 46.7% of whom were women.

The December 2024 briefing raised awareness about violence against women in politics, particularly young women, and discussed legislative and policy solutions. The systemic nature of violence was highlighted, as was the rise in AI-generated attacks on women MPs. The need for stronger policy reforms and increased actions by political parties was highlighted.

The March 2025 briefing raised awareness among young MPs about the Beijing +30 review, and coincided with related meetings at the UN. The need for young MPs to contribute to their country reviews on Beijing +30, especially on the situation of young women and groups in marginalized and vulnerable situations, was emphasized.

Both *Empowerment Series* sessions were organized under the auspices of the WYDE | Women's Leadership Initiative.

### **National activities**

In line with the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign, the IPU continued to provide national support to parliaments.

In December 2024, an online briefing was held for young MPs in Burkina Faso. The session focused on how to mobilize their newly created youth caucus for greater youth involvement in peace and security efforts in the country.

On 27 and 28 January, a two-day online training course on leadership and communication was held for young MPs in Thailand. The session aimed to help them enhance their political skills and to better support them in representing youth in policymaking.

In addition to ongoing support in these countries, discussions are also under way on supporting young MPs in other parliaments, including Benin and Kenya, as well as transitional parliaments in the Sahel.

### **Intergenerational dialogue among women and men MPs: *Supporting the political participation of women***

On 14 February 2025, an intergenerational dialogue entitled *Supporting the political participation of women* was convened in parallel to the IPU Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations. The session brought together a wide variety of MPs to share knowledge, experiences and good practices on two issues: the political underrepresentation of women, especially those from diverse groups, and violence against women. It was also an opportunity to provide guidance on the development of future advocacy tools on these topics tailored to the needs of MPs. The dialogue was organized under the auspices of the WYDE | Women's Leadership Initiative.

### **Strengthening links with youth organizations and the international community; young MPs contributing to international deliberations**

In line with the Forum's objectives of strengthening links between parliaments and young people and contributing to international deliberations, members of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians and its Bureau played active roles in the following events:

- The Kofi Annan Foundation's Accountability Hub, which brought together select youth leaders to strengthen youth political participation (13 December 2024)
- An Expert Group Meeting on transforming social norms for women's political participation, representation and leadership, which took place in Brussels (4 and 5 February 2025)

## 2. UPCOMING YOUTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN 2025

- A panel discussion entitled *Women's and youth participation in parliament in a time of polarization and adversity* at the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (Geneva, 29–31 July 2025)
- The 11th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians (venue and dates to be confirmed)
- Ongoing support activities to help parliaments promote and implement the *I Say Yes!* campaign, including assistance with launching the campaign in national parliaments and technical support for the implementation of pledges
- Continued online and offline training, such as IPU modules on leadership, mentorship and communication for young parliamentarians
- Continued online briefings as part of the *Empowerment Series*
- Preparations for the next report in the IPU's *Youth participation in national parliaments* series
- Continued dialogues between young parliamentarians and youth leaders, including leaders from Generation Equality Action Coalition 6 and others involved in the WYDE initiative
- Contribution of young MPs to international deliberations, including the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum (15–17 April 2025) and the World Bank Global Young MP Initiative (23 April 2025)

### Partnerships

The IPU youth programme maintains partnerships with the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the World Health Organization (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 other partners.

In 2024, youth-related activities also took place within the framework of IPU's engagement in the WYDE | Women's Leadership Initiative, a collaborative effort funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by UN Women, together with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), the IPU, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).