Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

United Nations Youth Office

Young parliamentarians round table

Shaping the future of AI with tech companies, youth leaders and UN experts

Parliamentary Session at the UN Youth Townhall
Tuesday, 8 December 2026, 14:00–15:30, Room TBC

Concept note and Programme

BACKGROUND

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming how young people learn, work, and participate in society. It offers enormous potential, including expanding access to knowledge, enhancing work efficiency and fostering innovation. However, harnessing the benefits of AI while minimizing its risks remains a major challenge. Loss of human control, impacts to the job market and types of work, data protection, cybersecurity, AI biases, tech-facilitated violence against women, and the amplification of mis- and disinformation are among the many risks.

The choices made today about how AI is developed, used and governed will shape the opportunities, rights and futures for young people for generations to come. Youth, therefore, need a meaningful voice in these decisions. Young Members of national Parliament (MPs), as politicians closest to a country's youth, are key actors to amplify the perspectives of younger generations into democratic debate and help ensure that decisions about AI respond to their needs and expectations.

Parliaments represent the people, adopt laws and conduct oversight over public policy. They are uniquely placed to be the public arena that can help seize AI's potential while addressing risks. Yet effective parliamentary engagement depends on understanding both the technology and its impact on society. This calls for open exchanges with technology companies, young people, experts and other stakeholders.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)[1] has worked to strengthen parliamentary engagement with AI. In October 2024, its Member Parliaments adopted a resolution entitled *The Impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*. The IPU has also published *Guidelines for AI in parliaments* to support the responsible use of AI within parliamentary institutions. Together, these initiatives reflect the importance of equipping parliaments to engage with AI both as a matter of public policy and in their own work.

OBJECTIVES

Building on this, the IPU and the United Nations Youth Office will jointly convene a Parliamentary Session at the inaugural UN Youth Townhall to bring young MPs into direct conversation with technology companies, youth leaders, experts and other stakeholders to explore a central question: How can parliaments, technology companies and young people work together to shape the development, use and governance of AI in ways that benefit younger generations and society as a whole?

As a unique space bringing together young MPs from around the world with other stakeholders, it will:

- Explore how parliaments and young MPs can contribute to inclusive, informed and forward-looking approaches to AI development, use and governance.
- Facilitate direct exchanges among young MPs, technology companies, youth leaders and other experts on their respective perspectives on opportunities and challenges.
- Identify shared priorities and avenues for continued cooperation.

PARTICIPATION AND FORMAT

The session will bring together young MPs (under 40 years of age) from different regions, representatives of technology companies, youth leaders and organizations, UN representatives, experts and other stakeholders attending the UN Youth Townhall.

It will be an interactive, moderated conversation rather than a series of formal presentations. Opening remarks and scene setting interventions will be followed by open dialogue designed to give participants opportunities to contribute, question and respond to one another. A dynamic exchange of perspectives will be encouraged.

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[1] The IPU is the global organization of national parliaments, with 184 Member Parliaments. It promotes democratic governance, institutions and values, working with national parliaments and parliamentarians to articulate and respond to the needs and aspirations of the people. One of its strategic priorities is youth empowerment.

REGISTRATION AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The session will take place as part of the UN Youth Townhall in Heidelberg, Germany (8–10 December 2026). Participants are required to register separately for the UN Youth Townhall (register here) and for this Parliamentary Session (register here).

The meeting room will be confirmed in due course. Traditional interpretation will not be available for this session. Instead, the United Nations will provide a dedicated platform offering live AI-generated transcripts of the discussions in all six official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). Participants may speak in any of these languages and will be able to follow the discussions in their preferred language by downloading the platform on their own devices.

PROGRAMME – Tuesday, 8 December 2026

14:00–14:10	**Opening remarks** • Ms. Nour Abu Ghosh, President of the IPU Bureau of Young Parliamentarians (TBC) • Dr. Felipe Paullier, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs (TBC)
14:10–14:30	**Session 1: Perspectives from parliaments, the technology sector, experts on AI and young people** Moderated scene-setting A moderated opening exchange with scene-setting comments from a selection of MPs, tech company representatives, international experts and youth leaders to introduce key opportunities and concerns for youth and AI.
14:30–15:10	**Session 2: Shaping AI together through governance, participation and cooperation** Moderated interactive discussion Participants will be invited to take the floor to explore how AI can be shaped through democratic engagement and cooperation. Open to all participants. Guiding questions: • What do you think is the most critical area of AI governance where young MPs and parliaments need to be more involved? • What do parliaments need from tech companies, and what do tech companies need from parliaments, to work better together in developing AI policy? • How can parliaments, technology companies, youth organizations and UN experts work better together to ensure young people help shape AI-related decisions?
15:10–15:25	**Session 3: Looking ahead at shared priorities and opportunities** Moderated interactive discussion A final round of brief contributions to identify promising approaches and avenues for continued engagement. Guiding questions: • What is one shared priority that should remain on the agenda after the UN Youth Townhall? • What practical step can the different stakeholders take together to advance it?
15:25–15:30	**Concluding remarks**