



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



Milli Mejlis of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan

**Fifth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians**  
***Promoting sustainability, protecting the interests of future generations***  
**Baku, Azerbaijan, 14-15 December 2018**

**Information Note**

**BACKGROUND AND AIM OF THE CONFERENCE**

The IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians has been taking place annually since 2014. It brings together hundreds of young men and women parliamentarians to empower them, help them build solidarity and networks, and promote a youth-coordinated approach to issues of common interest. The conferences have addressed political participation and democracy (Geneva, 2014), peace and prosperity (Tokyo 2015), the Sustainable Development Goals (Lusaka 2016) and political, social and economic inclusion (Ottawa 2017). The conferences are youth-led in their conceptualization, implementation and outcomes.

Decisions made today shape tomorrow and have an impact on several generations to come. The principle purpose of parliaments is to reflect the will of the people, in all their diversity, so that all have a say in the decisions that will affect their future. With this in mind young parliamentarians have repeatedly called for there to be “No decisions about youth, without the youth”. The same can be said for future generations. Although the individuals that make up future generations may be inherently absent from public decision-making today, their rights and interests need to be taken into account in the present.

What will our planet look like for the generations to come? What resources will future generations have to live with? How will policy decisions taken today impact future generations? How can we concretely better integrate future generations into public decision-making?

The 2018 Fifth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians is dedicated to addressing these questions.

Young parliamentarians are well placed to promote and protect the interests of future generations and consider the impact of today's political decisions upon them. By virtue of their age, young parliamentarians are closest to future generations. This unique positioning, combined with a proclivity for innovative and bold ideas, render young MPs fitting candidates to stand up for future generations.

Over the course of two days, young parliamentarians from all corners of the world will come together to reflect collectively on “outside the box” sustainable solutions to those key issues of today that will have a significant impact on tomorrow. Three sub-topics will be explored:

- 1) **The role of youth in environmental protection.** Environmental degradation may be the most flagrant symptom of inadequate forward-planning. Sessions will examine legislative initiatives parliaments can take to better safeguard the planet, for example through laws that encourage renewable energies or that place a greater cost on pollution. Three years after the Paris Climate Change Agreement and a few days after COP24, the sessions will also offer a platform to identify new ways for parliamentarians to hold government to account for their climate change commitments. The young parliamentarians will explore tools that can support their work in these areas.
- 2) **Sustainable consumption and production.** Humans use up almost 50 per cent more resources than the planet Earth can replenish every year, making the current cycle of

consumption and production unsustainable. If it continues, this pattern will leave future generations with scarce resources. With the shift towards a greener economy, more circular, and with a shared economy in mind, participants will explore innovative actions parliaments can take to promote more sustainable consumption and production patterns. Policy-making for more sustainable consumption and production will also serve environmental protection and help combat climate change.

- 3) **Prioritizing youth empowerment.** As the tectonic plates of technological change shift and as today's youth become tomorrow's adult population, parliaments have an important role to play to ensure that youth empowerment is firmly prioritized and budgeted. This means that young people must have access to quality education. They must be equipped for and be competent to access the jobs of tomorrow. Also, young women must have an equal share in the new labour economy. One of the keys to achieving this is forward-looking education that will train young people and build their capacity for the jobs that will be in demand in the future. The following questions will be addressed: What will the jobs of tomorrow be? What impact will technology and innovation have on young workers? What can be done today to ensure that young people are equipped for the jobs of the future? How can we harness the creativity and talent of young people to unleash their entrepreneurial power? How can young MPs oversee government planning and budgeting for youth empowerment?

The Conference discussions will be anchored in the sharing and promotion of inventive practices across these themes to ensure that parliaments are systematically in tune with the interests of future generations. Examples of parliamentary action include generational budget analyses, the establishment of committees and groups dedicated to future generations, and the appointment of independent officials (such as ombudspersons) to serve as guardians of future generations. Delegations are encouraged to come prepared with practices from their home countries to share with their colleagues.

By raising awareness, showcasing leadership practices, and fostering partnerships, the Conference will help mobilize young MPs to contribute to a better inclusion of future generations into today's public decision-making.

The Fifth IPU Global Conference will also launch the 2018 IPU report on youth participation in national parliaments. A special session will take place to take stock of recent developments and identify means to support youth leadership in politics.

## **VENUE AND DATE**

The Fifth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians will take place on 14 and 15 December 2018 at the Milli Mejlis (National Assembly) of Azerbaijan, 1 Parliament Avenue, Baku.

## **PARTICIPATION**

The Conference is open to young members of national parliaments under 45 years of age. Parliaments are invited to send a gender-balanced delegation of a maximum of four members, and are encouraged to **include their youngest members in their delegation**. Parliamentary staff members may also attend.

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

The IPU and the National Assembly of Azerbaijan will also invite a selected group of senior politicians and experts to contribute to the discussions and take part in the debates.

## **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 and dynamic as possible, the following rules will apply:

- There will be no list of speakers on any agenda item.
- Participants are asked to not read out prepared statements, but rather to naturally engage 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.
- The Conference sessions will include presentations by experts and resource persons, debates and interactive discussion panels in moderated plenary sessions.
- A Rapporteur will sum up the work of the Conference at its concluding session.

## DOCUMENTS

Participants will receive the written texts of the presentations by the resource persons as they become available. Documents will be distributed in English and French where possible.

For the background information of participants, the IPU Secretariat will, as far as possible, make background documentation available about the issues under discussion.

Participants wishing to distribute relevant documents to their colleagues will be required to provide them in sufficient quantities and to bring them to the meeting room.

## LANGUAGES

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

One additional interpretation booth will be available for rent for those national delegations that wish to bring their own team of interpreters. This will be provided on a first-come first-served basis. Requests for the additional simultaneous interpretation booth should be made to the secretariat of the host parliament.

## REGISTRATION

The parliaments and organizations invited to the Global Conference are requested to register their participants no later than **30 November 2018** using the enclosed registration form. Please send the form by e-mail, fax or post to the IPU and the National Assembly of Azerbaijan at:

**Inter-Parliamentary Union**  
 5, Chemin du Pommier  
 case postale 330  
 1218 Grand-Saconnex - GENEVA  
 Switzerland  
 e-mail: [postbox@ipu.org](mailto:postbox@ipu.org)  
 Tel.: +41 22 919 41 50  
 Fax: +41 22 919 41 60

**National Assembly of Azerbaijan**  
 Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
 1 Parliament ave.  
 AZ 1152 Baku  
 Azerbaijan  
 Email: [ipubaku@meclis.gov.az](mailto:ipubaku@meclis.gov.az)  
 Tel: +99450 277 99 28  
 Fax: + 99412 4934943

## VISAS

All Conference participants must have a valid passport for entry into Azerbaijan. Participants may also require a valid visa.

Delegates participating in the Conference are kindly requested to contact the Embassies or Consulates of Azerbaijan in their respective countries to obtain visas if necessary.

As the date of the Conference is fast approaching, we would encourage participants to submit their visa application as soon as possible to the authorities of Azerbaijan serving their country in order to ensure sufficient time to process the request.

In cases where there is no such diplomatic representation in the respective countries, participants can send a copy of their passports to the host parliament secretariat in order to obtain a visa upon arrival at the airport. In these cases, a letter from the host parliament will be provided confirming that visas will be issued at the port of entry for those delegates.

Please note that all Conference participants are exempt from visa application fees.

**Delegates must clearly state on their application form that they are attending the Fifth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).**

## **HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND FLIGHTS**

Delegates will bear the costs of their air transportation, accommodation and subsistence.

The primary hotel of the Conference is:

Fairmont Baku hotel

1A Mehdi Huseyn

Baku, Azerbaijan

Tel: +99412 5654848

<https://www.fairmont.com/baku/>

Delegates should make their reservations directly with the hotel using the dedicated Hotel booking form in order to be eligible for the negotiated accommodation rates.

Requests for hotel reservations will be dealt with on a first-come, first-served basis. Delegates are encouraged to make their reservations as soon as possible and in any case, no later than **5 December 2018**.

Cancellations without penalty must be received in writing no later than **5 December 2018**. Late cancellations received after this date will be charged for the full duration of the stay. No shows on the date of arrival will also be charged for the full duration of the stay.

Delegates are responsible for covering the cost of their accommodation, which is payable directly to the hotel.

## **INFORMATION DESK**

The Azerbaijani Secretariat will run an information desk at the hotel on 13 December.

## **REGISTRATION DESK**

Fairmont Baku hotel:

- 13 December (one day before the Conference) from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Venue of the Conference):

- 14 December (first day of the Conference) from 8.00 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 15 December (second day of the Conference) from 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## **TRANSPORT**

Delegates are responsible for all air travel arrangements and shall cover all related costs. Upon arrival delegates will be welcomed by staff upon exiting the plane. The Azerbaijani Secretariat will provide delegates with ground transfers between the airport and the designated hotel.

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.

Delegates arriving more than one day before or after the Conference dates must make transportation arrangements at their own expense.

The Azerbaijani Secretariat will provide transportation between the hotel and the Conference venue.

## **RECEPTIONS**

The National Assembly of Azerbaijan will host a luncheon for delegates on 14 December as well as a dinner reception on the evening of 14 December. More details will follow in due course.

## **FIRST-AID SERVICE**

First-aid will be available at the venue during the Conference. All other medical services and prescriptions will be at the participants' own expense.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE, MEDICATION**

Delegates are responsible for the cost of all personal medical services and must have health insurance prior to arriving in Azerbaijan. 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 necessary medication.

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 security measures will be taken. Participants are requested to wear their ID badges in a visible manner at all times during official programme events. All lost badges must be reported as soon as possible to the Information and Registration Desk of the Azerbaijani Secretariat.

## **CLIMATE**

In Azerbaijan, the climate is slightly continental, with relatively cold winters and hot summers; it's also arid in most of the low-lying areas, while it becomes colder and generally rainier in the mountains. Winter in Azerbaijan is cold but not freezing. The average minimum temperature in Baku in December is 7°C, with an average daytime high of 9°C.

## **CURRENCY REGULATIONS**

Foreign currency may only be exchanged at the airport, hotel and nearby banks. Major credit cards are accepted in hotels and most shops.

The official currency in Azerbaijan is the Azerbaijan Manat (AZN). The rate is approximately 1.70 AZN to 1 US Dollar.

## **OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION**

- Time Zone: local time in Baku is GMT +4 hours.

- Electricity: The electrical supply is 220 Volts and 50 Hertz. Electrical sockets (outlets) used in Azerbaijan are Type C and F.
- Telephone: country code +994.
  - Baku area code: 12
  - International calls from Baku: 00 + country code + city code + number.