



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

T +41 22 919 41 50
F +41 22 919 41 60
E postbox@ipu.org
www.ipu.org

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

Speech by Dr. Tulia Ackson, IPU President

Closing remarks - Tenth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians

Yerevan, Armenia, 14 September 2024

Mr. President of the Republic of Armenia,
Mr. President of the National Assembly of Armenia,
Mr. President of the IPU Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians,

Dear young parliamentarians,
Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

As we conclude this 10th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, I stand here, deeply inspired by the discussions and exchanges that have unfolded over the past few days. It is a rare and powerful moment when so many young voices from across the world come together, united by a shared commitment to build a better future.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the National Assembly of Armenia for hosting this remarkable event. Armenia, a Nation that honours both its ancient heritage and its modern aspirations, particularly its dedication to youth empowerment, has provided the perfect backdrop to our conversations.

Organizing a conference of this scale is no small feat, and the effort and hospitality shown by the Armenian National Assembly is truly commendable. I want to thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership, and to the hardworking staff who collaborated with the IPU team to ensure the success of this gathering.

To all our distinguished guests, panellists, and speakers, many of whom have travelled great distances to be here: I thank you for your invaluable contributions and for helping us chart the course forward on the key issues of education, employment, and youth engagement.

Ladies and gentlemen,

During this conference, we explored some of the most pressing challenges of our time: conflict, economic hardship, public health emergencies, and climate change. We discussed the need to deliver for everyone, and strategized on how we support groups in vulnerable situations. We heard compelling stories of triumph, resilience, and innovation from around the globe. Yet, we also confronted the harsh realities many young people face; from being marginalized in decision-making processes to the barriers posed by crises and conflicts.

In my opening remarks, I shared my concern about some of these challenges. But what I have witnessed here gives me hope. These discussions have illuminated a path forward. Together, we have crafted new ideas and new approaches, and this Conference has further solidified our belief that when parliament reflects the people it serves, in all its diversity, it can foster change that is both effective but enduring.

Most importantly, we have reiterated our shared commitment: that no decisions will be made about youth, without youth.

The recommendations and initiatives that have come out of these sessions will serve as the blueprint for real, tangible action in our respective nations.

Dear colleagues,

The IPU has long invested in empowering young parliamentarians to strengthen democracies and make them more representative, and this conference has only deepened that commitment. By bringing together parliamentarians, and stakeholders, and fostering inter-generational dialogues, we have seen the immense potential of youth leadership in shaping the future of our democracies.

As we leave this conference and return to our respective Nations, the real work begins. Our discussions here must be the foundation for action. It is now our responsibility to bring the energy, ideas, and urgency of these days into our parliaments, communities, and institutions.

We must be relentless in advocating for policies that ensure that education is accessible to all, that employment opportunities are available to everyone, and that every voice, regardless of gender, age, or ability, is heard and valued.

The road ahead will not be easy, and we will face competing priorities in our home countries. But we must not lose sight of the bigger picture.

Progress on education and employment, which are the pillars of opportunity, is essential if we are to truly empower our youth and build sustainable, inclusive societies.

I wish you all safe travels, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Thank you.