



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



PARLIAMENT | PARLEMENT
CANADA

Fourth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians

A place for everyone: Young Parliamentarians as drivers of inclusion

Ottawa, Canada, 17-18 November 2017

Information Note

BACKGROUND AND AIM OF THE CONFERENCE

Inclusion is a foundation stone for all State activities. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) underline the importance of leaving no one behind from the benefits of State initiatives, as well as from their formulation and oversight. Ensuring inclusion and the infusion of diverse perspectives towards delivering more effective governance is key to the work parliaments do. As representatives of the people who adopt laws, State budgets, and hold governments to account, parliaments and their members play an indispensable role in safeguarding and promoting inclusiveness and non-discrimination. IPU Parliaments adopted the Quebec City Declaration at the 127th IPU Assembly in October 2012, which upheld diversity as a global value to be celebrated and protected. Despite trends towards a more inclusive, mobile and interdependent world, increased pressures to raise barriers between people are challenging the principle of inclusion. The need to better understand and protect political, social and economic inclusiveness has never been more topical.

Young people face particular challenges to greater inclusion: they often come up against obstacles to political decision-making; as a disproportionately high number of people “on the move” between and within countries, they often face difficulties in integrating into host societies; and as newcomers to the job market, they face particular challenges to economic sustainability, let alone prosperity. The risks of exclusion are high and can lead to the erosion of trust in political institutions and threats to democracies. Despite these challenges, young people are coming of age in an increasingly globalized and integrated world, and their talents, fresh ideas and enthusiasm have much to offer for people of all ages. The political, social and economic inclusion of young people is therefore not only about making sure they are not left behind, but also about strengthening their contribution to a more democratic, just and prosperous world. Young parliamentarians, as political leaders closest to a country’s young people, are particularly sensitive to these issues. They have a critical role in amplifying the voices of young people and future generations, in articulating their interests, and serving as role models who inspire greater mobilization.

The Fourth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians will examine more deeply the role that young parliamentarians can play as drivers of political, social and economic inclusion. It is being jointly organized by the IPU and the Parliament of Canada. Three subtopics will be explored through expert-panel presentations: youth political participation, migration and social integration, and inclusive growth. Gender equality and digital technologies will also be cross-cutting themes underpinning the discussions. Through enhanced partnerships, the Conference will engage young parliamentarians on strategies to drive greater inclusion and manage diversity, and will empower them to take action.

The IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians is an annual event that 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 first IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians took place in 2014 and was held under the theme *Taking democracy to task*. In 2015, the Conference entitled *Democracy, peace and prosperity* was held in Tokyo in partnership with the Japanese Diet. The 2016 Conference took place in Lusaka in collaboration with the National Assembly of Zambia, and was entitled *Agenda 2030: Youth leading the way, leaving no one behind*.

VENUE AND DATE

The Fourth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians will take place on 17 and 18 November 2017 at the Sir John A. MacDonald building, 144 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Canada.

All participants are requested to register and collect their badges at the registration desk.

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 Parliament of Canada will also invite a selected group of senior politicians and experts to inform the discussions and 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, English, French and Spanish.

Three additional interpretation booths will be available for rent for those national delegations that wish to bring their own team of interpreters. Requests for additional simultaneous interpretation booths must be made one month in advance of the meeting directly to:

Astrid Ratzel, Protocol Coordinator
Telephone: +1 (613) 943-2733
Fax: +1 (613) 995-0212
e-mail: ipu4uip@parl.gc.ca
These will be provided on a first-come first-served basis.

REGISTRATION

The parliaments and organizations invited to the Global Conference are requested to register their participants no later than **29 September 2017** using the enclosed registration form. Please send the form by e-mail, fax or post to the IPU and the Parliament of Canada at:

Inter-Parliamentary Union

5, Chemin du Pommier
case postale 330
1218 Grand-Saconnex
Geneva, Switzerland
e-mail: postbox@ipu.org
Tel.: +41 22 919 41 50
Fax: +41 22 919 41 60

Parliament of Canada

Ms. Astrid Ratzel, Protocol Coordinator
Parliament of Canada
131 Queen Street Ottawa,
ON K1A 0A6, Canada
e-mail: ipu4uip@parl.gc.ca
Tel.: +1 (613) 943-2733
Fax: +1 (613) 995-0212

VISAS

All Conference participants must have a valid passport for entry into Canada. Participants may also require a valid visa or electronic Travel Authority (eTA).

Visas must be obtained PRIOR to travelling to Canada as they cannot be issued upon arrival. As the date of the Conference is fast approaching, we would encourage you to submit your visa application as soon as possible to the Canadian visa office serving your country in order to ensure that the authorities have time to process your request.

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 Fourth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

To find out more about current visa and passport requirements, please visit the Citizenship and Immigration Canada Web site at www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/index.asp. Canadian Embassies and High Commissions may also be able to provide assistance.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND FLIGHTS

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

The official hotel of the Conference is:

Marriott Hotel
100 Kent Street
Ottawa, ON
K1P 5R7
Tel.: +1 (613) 238-1122
Website: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/yowmc-ottawa-marriott-hotel/>

Delegates should make their reservations directly with the hotel and ensure that they specify that they are delegates to the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians 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 October 22, 2017.

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

INFORMATION DESK

The Canadian Secretariat will run an information desk at the Marriott Hotel.

REGISTRATION DESK

Marriott Hotel:

- 15 November from 12noon to 6 p.m.
- 16 November from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sir John A. MacDonald Building:

- 17 November from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 18 November from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

TRANSPORT

Delegates are responsible for all air travel arrangements and shall cover all related costs. The Canadian 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 before or after the Conference dates must make transportation arrangements at their own expense.

The Conference venue is within walking distance of the hotel (5 minutes). The Canadian Secretariat will provide transportation to the Conference venue only for delegates with reduced mobility.

RECEPTION/VISIT

The Parliament of Canada will host luncheons for delegates on Friday 17 November and Saturday November 18. A dinner reception will be held on the evening of Saturday November 18. 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 Canada. 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 Canadian Secretariat.

CLIMATE

Ottawa has a variable climate. The average temperature in Ottawa in November is very cool at 1.5 °C (34.7 °F). Afternoons can be cool with average high temperatures reaching 4.8 °C (40.6 °F). Overnight temperatures are generally slightly cold with an average low of -1.9 °C (28.6 °F).

CURRENCY REGULATIONS

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

The official currency in Canada is the Canadian Dollar (CAD). The rate is approximately 1.33 CAD to 1 US Dollar.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

- Time Zone: local time in Ottawa is GMT -4 hours.
- Electricity: The electrical supply is 120 Volts and 60 Hertz. Electrical sockets (outlets) used in Canada are Type A and B (same as in the USA).
- Telephone: country code +1.
 - Ottawa area code: 613; 343
 - International calls from Ottawa: 00 + country code + city code + number.