



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



## Regional Conference of Young Parliamentarians of Africa *Empowering youth: Enhancing political participation for more inclusive and peaceful societies.*

Abuja, Nigeria, 27-28 September 2017

### Information Note

#### Background and aim of the Conference

Africa is the youngest continent in the world. With approximately 70 per cent of its population under 30 years of age, young men and women literally hold the demographic balance of power on the continent. Despite accounting for a majority proportion of the population, young people are, however, vastly underrepresented in the continent's formal political institutions. IPU research has revealed that less than 1.5 per cent of African parliamentarians are aged under 30. Although perceived lack of experience, financial challenges, and cultural impediments contribute to this disparity, more concrete barriers to participation also exist, such as legislative age limits to qualify for public office.

For decision-making to be inclusive, it requires the participation of all people, including youth. Political inclusion is not only important because it is a human right, but also because the contribution of all segments of society in decision-making brings about more effective governance and legitimacy. It also provides young people with a sense of ownership of public affairs. Inclusive participation strengthens public policy and is indispensable for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, the participants of the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians held in Lusaka in March 2016 concluded that without the contribution and leadership of young people, Agenda 2030 could not be achieved.

In spite of the benefits of youth participation in politics, young people are less likely to vote and are increasingly disengaged from formal political activity. This, however, cannot be attributed to a lack of interest in political affairs. Young people use many different platforms to engage in democracies, such as social media, youth organizations, and in some cases, protests. Rather, formal political institutions have too often failed to open up to young people. As today's young people become tomorrow's adult population, failure to address their growing disengagement can lead to further disillusionment and lack of confidence in politics. This poses a threat to the future of democracy, and can in some cases, contribute to an environment conducive to extremism and radicalization. In this context, political participation can be a powerful antidote to many of the drivers of violent extremism.

Parliaments are ideal entry points for young people to meaningfully contribute to their countries' governance. As representatives of the people who adopt laws, states budgets, and hold governments to account, parliamentarians have critical roles to play in ensuring the vitality of our democracies and societies. Young parliamentarians, as political leaders closest to a country's youth population, are uniquely placed to amplify their voices and articulate their interests.

To galvanize action to enhance youth political participation for more inclusive and peaceful societies, the IPU and the Parliament of Nigeria are convening the Regional Conference of

Young Parliamentarians of Africa. The event will bring together young parliamentarians to explore the obstacles to greater youth participation in politics in the African context and coordinate solutions to address them. It will also examine the link between political participation and the prevention of violent extremism, and consolidate proposals for actions to help young MPs tackle this scourge. The Conference will also empower young MPs by building their capacity and enhancing regional partnerships between parliamentarians and young people.

The IPU Resolution on *Youth participation in the democratic process*, adopted by the 122<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly in Bangkok in April 2010 (<http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/122/Res-3.htm>), calls for the strengthening of the linkages and cooperation between parliaments, their young members, youth organizations and youth movements. With this in mind, the Conference will gather young MPs and youth organizations from Africa to join forces to foster youth participation in democracy and to prevent conflicts and violent extremism.

### **Venue and date**

The Regional Conference will take place on 27 and 28 September 2017 at the National Assembly, Senate New Wing Conference Room 231. National Assembly Complex Abuja, FCT Nigeria.

### **Participation**

The Conference is open to young members of national parliaments from the African region 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. International and regional youth associations, organizations and parliaments are being invited as well.

### **Organization of proceedings**

In keeping with standard IPU practice, all young MPs 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.
- In order to facilitate interactive debates, participants are asked to refrain from reading out prepared statements, but rather naturally to engage in lively discussions. Subject to arrangements that the Chairs of sessions may make to suit the circumstances, oral contributions may not exceed three minutes. Young MPs members of delegations 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. As part of the IPU's paper smart policy, only a limited number of documentation sets will be printed. Participants are invited to consult the documentation online via the following link: <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/abuja17.htm>

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 be provided in Arabic, English and French.

Two 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 Conference directly to: Dr Adesanya's e-mail [dradesanya2004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dradesanya2004@yahoo.co.uk), tel: +2348033495776. These will be provided on a first-come first-served basis and costs will be borne by the visiting delegation.

## Registration

The parliaments and organizations invited to the Regional Conference are requested to register their participants no later than 13 September 2017 using the enclosed registration form. Please send the form by e-mail, fax or post to the IPU and the Parliament of Nigeria 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

**Parliament of Nigeria**  
Dr. Rabi A. Audu  
Three Arms Zone  
National Assembly  
P.M.B. 141  
Abuja  
Nigeria  
E-mail: [rabi1982003@yahoo.com](mailto:rabi1982003@yahoo.com)  
[tee2ng@yahoo.com](mailto:tee2ng@yahoo.com)  
Tel.: +2348037872210

## Visas

All participants must have a valid passport in order to enter Nigeria.

Delegates participating in the Conference are kindly requested to contact the Nigerian Embassies in their respective countries to obtain visas if necessary.

Many airline companies do not allow passengers to board a plane if they do not have an entry visa for their final destination. If delegates cannot obtain visas from their home country, they have to forward a copy of the data pages of their passports and their photographs to Nigerian Parliament Secretariat. The Nigerian Parliament will then confirm in a letter that visas will be issued at the port of entry of these delegates.

## Hotel accommodation and flights

Delegates will bear the costs relating to their participation, including air transportation, accommodation and subsistence.

Information on the official hotels for the Conference can be found here below. 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 13 September 2017.

Delegates should make their reservations directly with the hotel and ensure that they specify that they are delegates to the IPU Regional Conference of Young Parliamentarians in order to be eligible for the negotiated accommodation rates.

The cost of accommodation is payable directly to the hotel.

**List of official hotels:**

**CHELSEA HOTEL (4.3 km from the venue)**

Plot 123, Cadastral Zone AO  
Central Business District  
Reservation: +234 (0) 97822 082; +234(0) 97822 080  
**E-mail:** [info@chelseahotel.com](mailto:info@chelseahotel.com)  
**Website :** [www.chelseahotelabuja.com/](http://www.chelseahotelabuja.com/)

Contact Persons:

**Josephine Enwerem**

Front Office Manager  
+234(0) 803 5388 359

Kate Amba  
Marketing Manager  
+234(0) 812 912 4145

<b>N/S</b>	<b>ROOM TYPE</b>	<b>PRICE(N)</b>
1.	Standard	32,000
2.	Superior Room	38,800
3.	Executive Room	40,800
4.	Regal Room	44,400
5.	Panoramic Room	49,600
6.	Junior Suite	56,400
7.	Ambassadorial Suite	80,400
8.	Presidential Suite	120,800

**REIZ CONTINENTAL HOTEL (3.1 km from the venue)**

Plot 779, Cadastral Zone AO  
Central Business District, Abuja  
**Reservation:** +234 (0) 80 73190 331; +234 (0) 805 6498 011  
**E-mail:** [reservation@reizcontinentalhotels.com](mailto:reservation@reizcontinentalhotels.com)  
[info@reizcontinentalhotels.com](mailto:info@reizcontinentalhotels.com)  
**Website:** [www.reizcontinentalhotels.com](http://www.reizcontinentalhotels.com)

Contact Person:

Ms. Amaka Aham  
Sales Manager

<b>N/S</b>	<b>ROOM TYPE</b>	<b>PRICE(N)</b>
1.	Studio	27,000
2.	Standard	33,120
3.	Deluxe	40,020
4.	Executive	43,320
5.	Super Deluxe	44,620
6.	Penthouse	60,490
7.	Continental Suite	71,530
8.	Business Suite	76,130

**TREASURES SUITES & CONFERENCES (2.2 km from the venue)**

Plot 66, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue by Shehu Shagari Way  
CBD, Opposite High Court Headquarters  
Abuja  
Tel: +234(0)9098811770; +2349098822660  
**E-mail:** [reservations@treasures.ng](mailto:reservations@treasures.ng)  
**Website:** [www.treasures.ng](http://www.treasures.ng)

N/S	ROOM TYPE	PRICE(N)
1.	Deluxe	45,000
2.	Executive	50,000
3.	Royal Room with Balcony	70,000
4.	Royal Room	70,000
5.	Presidential Suite	150,000

**E-SUITES (2.8 km from the venue)**

21 Jesse Jackson Street  
Off Jimmy Carter Street by Protea Hotel  
Asokoro, Abuja

Contact person:

Mr. Greg  
Tel. +2348037576747

N/S	ROOM TYPE	PRICE(N)
1.	Standard	18,000
2.	Deluxe	20,000
3.	Executive	30,000

**CHARRIOT HOTELS LTD (1.8 km from the venue)**

No. 7, Tito Broz Street  
Off Jimmy Carter Street  
Asokoro, Abuja

Contact person:

Mr. Greg  
Tel. +2348037576747  
E-mail: [charriothotels@yahoo.com](mailto:charriothotels@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.charriothotels.com](http://www.charriothotels.com)

N/S	ROOM TYPE	PRICE(N)
1.	Standard	15,000
2.	Deluxe	18,000
3.	Executive	20,000

**Information desk**

The host Parliament Secretariat will run an information desk at the official hotels.

**Registration desk**

Participants should register on arrival at the Registration Desk that will be located at the Senate Building, Senate Committee Room 224. They will receive a Conference badge.

The Registration Desk will be open on:

- 26 September from 8.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.
- 27 September from 8.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.
- 28 September from 8.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

## **Transport**

Delegates are responsible for all air travel arrangements and shall cover all related costs. The Parliament of Nigeria will provide delegates with transportation between the airport and the designated hotel.

On the dates of the Conference, the Parliament of Nigeria will provide transport between the designated hotel and the Conference venue.

## **Reception/visit**

The Parliament of Nigeria will host a reception dinner for delegates on 27 September 2017. More details will follow in due course.

## **First-aid service**

During the Conference, first-aid facilities will be available at the venue. All other medical services and prescriptions will be at the participants' own expense.

## **Insurance**

Participants are advised to take out appropriate insurance before leaving for Nigeria. The Parliament of Nigeria is not liable, should a participant fall ill or have an accident while in Nigeria.

## **Security**

All necessary security measures will be taken. Participants should wear their badges at all times in order to have access to the Conference venue.

## **On-site services**

The following services will be available on the premises of the main venue:

- Banks
- Restaurants, cafeteria and bar services will be provided at the participants' expense
- First-aid service
- Travel agency
- Coffee breaks

## **Climate**

Abuja has a tropical wet and dry climate. The month of September is essentially characterized by temperatures ranging between 20°C and 29°C.

## **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 Nigeria is the Nigerian Naira (NGN). The rate is roughly 360 NGN to 1 US Dollar.

## **Other useful information**

- Time Zone: local time in Abuja is UTC + 01 hour.
- Electricity: The electrical supply is 230 Volts and 50 Hertz (cycles per second). Electrical sockets (outlets) used in Nigeria are Type D and G (same as in the UK).
- Telephone: country code +234.
- Abuja area code: 9
- International calls from Abuja: 00 + country code + city code + number.