



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

+41 22 919 41 50
+41 22 919 41 60
postbox@ipu.org

Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva – Switzerland
www.ipu.org

16 June 2014

**Office of the
IPU Secretary General**

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker,

I am pleased to invite your Parliament to the First IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, which will take place in Geneva on 10 and 11 October 2014. The Conference is organized with the generous support of the Worldwide Support for Development (WSD).

The IPU's commitment to supporting youth participation in politics began in 2010 with the adoption of the resolution on "Youth participation in the democratic process" at the 122nd IPU Assembly in Bangkok.

Since then, the world has witnessed the widescale mobilization of young people for democracy and social and economic causes in many countries. Nevertheless, many studies show their growing political and electoral disenchantment. Today, fewer than 2 per cent of parliamentarians around the world are in their 20s and only 12 per cent in their 30s.

Yet young people between the ages of 15 and 25 currently represent one fifth of the world population. Their political disillusionment is thus a real challenge to the establishment and sustainability of strong democracies.

The Conference of Young Parliamentarians aims to find ways and means to stimulate youth engagement and help define the youth agenda in politics. Please find in attachment an information note on the event.

I am pleased to invite you to send a delegation of young parliamentarians to attend this First IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians. In order to benefit from a balanced range of views, I would ask you to designate a gender-balanced delegation of up to four members of parliament. Ideally, the delegation should include the youngest members of your Parliament, below 45 years old.

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As this Conference will take place immediately before the 131st IPU Assembly, I encourage you to include the young parliamentarians who will take part in the Conference in your delegation to the Assembly. This would minimize your Parliament's participation time and travel costs. In addition, your delegation's young parliamentarians will also be able to attend the next meeting of the recently established Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU, which will take place on 13 October during the 131st Assembly in Geneva.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to send a delegation of young MPs to participate in this First IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians. I would be grateful if you could send the names and contact details of the delegation members to Ms. Zeina Hilal, Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU (zh@ipu.org) by 31st July 2014.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and remain,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders B. Johansson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anders B. Johansson
Secretary General