



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



The IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians Lusaka, Zambia

Agenda 2030:

Youth leading the way, leaving no one behind

Information Note

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

Since 2010, when the landmark resolution on youth participation in the democratic process was adopted, the IPU and its Member Parliaments have put in place youth-led global structures to support youth participation in politics and empower young parliamentarians. In 2013, the IPU established the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, a statutory body which aims to enhance youth participation and bring a youth perspective to international issues and policies. Since 2014, the Organization established another global mechanism: an annual conference of young MPs. The event brings together hundreds of young men and women national parliamentarians to empower them, strengthen their voices on international affairs and offer them networking opportunities.

The first IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians took place in 2014 and was entitled *Taking democracy to task*. The 2015 Conference was held in Tokyo and was organized by the IPU and the Japanese Diet. The topic of the Conference was *Democracy, peace and prosperity*. Young MPs affirmed in Tokyo that democracy and security do not operate in a vacuum, but are strongly inter-linked with development.

The year 2015 has been seminal. The United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals. IPU Member Parliaments adopted the Hanoi Declaration, pledging to play a strong role in the implementation of the new development agenda. The Sendai agreements on disaster risk reduction and the COP21 Paris Agreement were also adopted in 2015, further emphasizing the need for parliamentarians to take stronger action to address climate change.

Young people have a huge stake in these efforts. When the post-2015 development agenda is completed in 2030, it is today's youth and future generations who will face the consequences of the agenda's success or failure.

The Sustainable Development Goals are citizen-oriented and commit to leaving no one behind. Young people are therefore an integral part of the implementation of this agenda. Not only is it their right to be involved, but also young people's innovative ideas, enthusiasm, creativity and action are badly needed to fulfil the goals that the world has set out. Those goals cannot be accomplished with young people standing on the side-lines: they are and should act as key players. As representatives of the people and as political decision-makers with legislative and oversight powers, young parliamentarians are uniquely placed to lead the way for sustainable, equitable and fair development.

The 2016 IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians will start to make these words a reality. The Conference is entitled *Agenda 2030: Youth leading the way, leaving no one behind*. It will take place in Lusaka (Zambia) and will be jointly convened by the IPU and the Parliament of Zambia.

The Conference will focus on groups in danger of being left out of the development agenda and other associated risks, as well as key thematic issues such as climate change and equitable economic models. Young parliamentarians will be supported as they play a lead role in ensuring that development commitments become reality for all. It is the work that is carried out today that will shape the world of 2030, and it is the young people of today and future generations that will have to live in it.

The Conference in Lusaka is open to young men and women members of national parliaments as well as IPU observers and youth organizations, networks and associations.

VENUE AND DATE

The Conference will take place on 16 and 17 March 2016 in the Musio-O-Tunya Hall (New Wing) at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre (MICC).

All participants are requested to register at the main building and then walk to the New Wing as indicated on the map in Annex I. The two buildings are just next to each other.

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.

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

ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

In keeping with standard IPU practice, all participants 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. After the resource persons have introduced an agenda item, the floor will be open to participants for questions and comments.
- Participants are asked to not read out prepared statements, but rather naturally engage in lively discussions. Subject to arrangements that chairpersons of sessions may make to suit 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 resource persons, debates and interactive discussion panels in moderated plenary sessions.
- Two co-Rapporteurs 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 with 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.

A limited number of 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 may be made directly to: Mrs. C N Mbewe of the National Assembly of Zambia either by email at youngmp@parliament.gov.zm, or by fax at +260 211 292 22 52. These will be provided on a first-come first-served basis.

REGISTRATION

Parliaments are requested to send their list of participants attending the Conference no later than 16 February 2016 using the enclosed Registration Form. Please send the form by email, fax or post to the IPU and the National Assembly of Zambia at:

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

Mrs. C N Mbewe
National Assembly of Zambia
P O Box 31299
Lusaka, Zambia
E-mail: youngmp@parliament.gov.zm
Tel.: +260 211 292 42 5/36
Fax: +260 211 292 22 52

VISAS

All participants must have a valid passport in order to enter the Republic of Zambia. Delegates who hold national passports of the following countries do not require a visa to enter Zambia:

Botswana, Cyprus, Fiji, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Malta, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Romania, Samoa, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

All other nationalities require a visa to enter Zambia. Delegates are requested to contact the Zambian Embassy/High Commission/Consulate located in or accredited to their countries to obtain visas prior to their departure. Please attach a copy of the invitation letter to the Visa Application Form. For further information on visas, please contact the visa section of the Zambian Embassy or Consulate-General that handles matters related to your country or region

Visas will also be issued on arrival in Zambia for those delegates who have been unable to obtain an entry visa prior to travel, or for delegates from countries in which Zambia has no diplomatic or consular representation.

Many airline companies do not allow passengers to board a plane if they do not have an entry visa for their final destination. A letter from the Zambian Parliament is therefore available confirming that visas will be issued at the port of entry for those delegates who may not manage to obtain visas before their departure. The letter is sent with the invitation documents.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

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

Information on the official hotels for the Conference can be found in the attached hotel information sheet. 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, by no later than 12 February 2016.

Delegates should make their reservations directly with the hotels and ensure that they specify that they are delegates to the **134th IPU Assembly and related events** in order to be eligible for the negotiated accommodation rates.

Upon receipt of confirmation, payment can be made directly to the respective hotels.

TRANSPORT

The National Assembly will provide delegates with transportation between the airport and the designated hotels.

On the dates of the Conference, the National Assembly of Zambia will provide transport between the designated hotels and the conference venue.

RECEPTION

The National Assembly of Zambia will host a dinner for delegates on Thursday, 17 March, at the invitation of Mr. Greyford Monde, Vice-President of the IPU Zambia Group. More details will follow in due course.

HEALTH REGULATIONS

Visitors to Zambia **do not** require Yellow Fever vaccination. Zambia was declared Yellow Fever-free by the World Health Organization in December 2014. Delegates are nevertheless encouraged to contact their medical practitioner before travelling to make sure they are up-to-date with routine vaccinations and to be informed of any precautionary measures they should take.

FIRST-AID SERVICE

Delegates of the Conference will have access to a first-aid service within the main Assembly venue. However, delegates are advised to take out comprehensive **medical insurance policies** to cover medical emergencies, including the cost of evacuation to other countries within the region, if necessary.

INSURANCE

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

REGISTRATION DESK

The Registration Desk will be located in the foyer of the MICC main building (see annex I). It will be open on:

- 15 March from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- 16 March from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 17 March from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Participants should register on arrival at the MICC Building. They will receive a conference badge and bag when they register.

SECURITY

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

ON-SITE SERVICES

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

- Post office
- Banks
- International telephone and fax service
- Restaurants, cafeteria and bar services will be provided at the participants' expense
- First-aid service
- Travel agency
- Coffee breaks
- Pigeonhole for each delegation

CLIMATE

Generally, Lusaka has a temperate climate with dry winters and hot summers. The month of March is essentially characterized by constant temperatures ranging between 15°C and 27°C. It also rains regularly throughout March, with an average of 10 days of rainfall.

CURRENCY REGULATIONS

Foreign currency may only be exchanged at authorized national and private banks. Most of the major currencies (£, € and US\$) or traveller's cheques are accepted.

The local currency in Zambia is the Kwacha. The Zambian Kwacha consists of notes (2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 denominations) and coins. Visitors may carry up to a maximum of US\$ 10,000 or its equivalent of accepted international foreign currency in cash provided that the amount is declared to customs on arrival.

Average foreign currency rates as of November 2015

Kwacha per unit of foreign currency	Bank rates	
	Buying	selling
US Dollar	12.4024	12.4224
GB Pound	18.9831	19.0199
Euro	13.7084	13.7342
Rand	0.9111	0.9132

All major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Diners) are accepted at certain authorized banks and points of sale.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

- Time Zone: local time is GMT +02 hours.
- Weights and measures: metric.
- Electricity: 240 volts. Electrical sockets (outlets) used in Zambia are Type G (same as in the United Kingdom).
- Telephone: country code 260.
 - Lusaka area code: 0211.
 - International call from Lusaka: 00 + country code + city code + number.

ANNEX I

