



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IPU RESOLUTION: *YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS*

Actions carried out by Member Parliaments to implement the resolution

Afghanistan

The Upper House of the National Assembly of Afghanistan has a youth parliament which holds annual sessions and carries out regular consultations with young people.

The Wolesi Jirga (House of the People) has conducted youth parliamentary sessions in coordination with the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and invited youth activists and university students for a parliamentary exchange programme.

Benin

Every three years, young parliamentarians from Benin are recruited by the Parliament. Regular youth parliamentary sessions are held with the support of the National Assembly.

Bhutan

The Parliament of Bhutan celebrated the IPU's 130th anniversary by organizing an interactive panel discussion involving young parliamentarians and schoolchildren. This provided parliamentarians with a better understanding of the concerns of youth and the opportunity to convey to young people the role of parliamentarians in addressing the underlying problems afflicting youth.

Costa Rica

The Permanent Special Committee on Children and Youth, created in 1999, welcomed the IPU resolution, *Youth participation in the democratic process*.

The Citizen Participation Department of the Legislative Assembly engages with young people and holds parliamentary simulations. Young people participate in forums and workshops, whose goals are to strengthen the political leadership capacities of youth and contribute to the strengthening of democracy.

El Salvador

Through a reform to the Internal Regulations of the Legislative Assembly in March 2016, the first Parliamentary Youth Group was established. The goal is to promote initiatives for the benefit of young people, guarantee their rights, foster political, social, cultural, sports and economic participation in conditions of equity and solidarity, and improve the living conditions of youth with a global vision. The Youth Parliamentary Group is made up of parliamentarians between 25 and 35 years of age.



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The Gambia

The country has invested in youth and women through the *Youth and women empowerment project*. It is dedicated to reducing youth unemployment and addressing problems around migration. The voting age was also reduced to 18 years of age, which improved the active participation of young people and women in politics. The latter is also evidenced by the significant rise in the number of political parties in the country mostly led by young people and women.

Ireland

The Committee on Children and Youth Affairs of the last Parliament scrutinized the work of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and key stakeholders to better promote the interests of children and young people.

To celebrate 100 years since the first sitting of the Dáil Éireann (House of Representatives) in 1919, the Dáil na nÓg (National Youth Parliament) took place in Leinster House (Parliament building) in 2019.

Luxembourg

The Chamber of Deputies hosts the Youth Parliament every year. During the hearing, young people present their opinions and resolutions to the deputies. The session is broadcast live on the Parliament's television channel.

Malta

In 2018, Malta lowered its voting age for general and European Parliament elections to 16. The change added 8,500 new voters to the electoral register, who voted for the first time during the elections for the European Parliament in 2019.

Through the National Youth Council, an annual Youth Parliament is organized bringing together civic-minded youths with parliamentarians to discuss topical issues.

Malaysia

The Parliament passed the Constitution (Amendment) Bill in 2019 which reduced the voting age in national and state elections from 21 to 18.

Mexico

In April 2019, Mexico's Youth Parliament was held. It galvanized young people and generated opportunities to deepen their knowledge of the work being done in the Senate.

The Chamber of Deputies has also proactively taken action to implement the IPU resolution, *Youth participation in the democratic process*, in particular by: introducing measures to enhance youth representation in Parliament; establishing a committee on youth; and holding regular parliamentary hearings and consultations with youth.



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Montenegro

A Children's Parliament is organized by the Parliament. It is dedicated to promoting children's rights to participate and advocate, as well as serving as a mechanism for promoting children's rights in general. It provides opportunities for their voices to be heard in the highest legislature.

The Parliament of Montenegro is implementing, on a permanent basis, an educational programme entitled *Democratic workshop "Barbara Pramer"*. The aim is to boost the interest of young people in democracy and political processes and introduce them to the work of MPs and Parliament as an institution.

Two parliamentary committees also discuss various issues and draft laws related to youth.

Federated States of Micronesia

The Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia invites and supports youth representation on national delegations to the United Nations and in international meetings. The Congress expanded youth involvement in congressional sessions by prioritizing and increasing the employment of socially and economically disadvantaged youths in its Page Program.

Nicaragua

In 2001, Law 392 – the Law for the Promotion of the Integral Development of Youth – was passed, which aims to: promote the human development of young men and women; guarantee the exercise of their rights and obligations; establish institutional policies; and mobilize State and civil society resources for youth.

The National Assembly has a Generational and Intergenerational Policy, which is defined as actions, practices and commitments that must be achieved to incorporate – both in the administrative sphere and in the process of law-making – elements that uphold justice and rights in generational and intergenerational relations. The objective of this policy is to implement practices that make the rights, guarantees and freedoms of all generational groups a reality in the administrative management of the National Assembly and in the preparation and approval of laws.

Netherlands

In 2019, the Committee on Economic Affairs and Climate consulted with youth groups on the issue of climate change. In 2017, the Parliament adopted a motion to organize a yearly children's question hour with ministers.

New Zealand

The New Zealand Parliament regularly hosts a National Youth Parliament and has a youth reference group. The Parliament also convenes youth roundtables.



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Norway

Youth organizations regularly participate in parliamentary hearings. The Speaker of Parliament regularly meets with young people and promotes outreach as a priority. Together with youth organizations, the Speaker has produced a guide for youth on how to participate in social debates: https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/nett/siifra_brosjyre_engelsk.pdf

Poland

The Sejm of Children and Youth (Youth Parliament) is organized with young deputies aged between 13 and 18 selected through a national contest. Their annual meeting is usually held on 1 June (International Children's Day) in the Plenary Hall of the Sejm (Lower House).

Qatar

The Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council received, on 21 November 2018, a delegation of American students representing the National Council on U.S.–Arab Relations.

Romania

The Senate of Romania has a Youth Senate, which is an educational project that familiarizes high school pupils with the legislative process through direct dialogue and interaction with senators. It meets on a yearly basis.

The Chamber of Deputies of Romania has a Standing Committee specialized in youth issues – the Committee for Education, Science, Youth and Sport. It started its activity in 1990.

In order to have a constant dialogue with the young generation and to promote democratic values and awareness of the decision-making mechanisms within the legislative branch, the Chamber of Deputies established an educational centre in 2007. Its attributions and mission are to carry out activities with young people, especially educational visits and internships in the Lower House of Parliament.

San Marino

A committee on youth exists which is appointed by the Parliament and whose members are not parliamentarians.

Serbia

The National Assembly's delegation to the IPU includes three young MPs of a total of eight MPs.

Serbia has a Ministry of Youth and Sport, and the Law on Youth passed in 2011 stipulates that a Strategy for Youth be passed every 10 years and the State secure funds for its objectives.

A Youth Council was founded in 2014 to serve as an advisory body to the government. The Republic of Serbia also established a Youth Office as an important mechanism to efficiently encourage the development of youth policy at the local level. A Fund for Young Talents was also set up to provide scholarships and awards for over 3,400 high school and university students.

The Parliament regularly organizes simulations of the National Assembly for high school and university students – an interactive educational initiative in which young people participate as MPs in a simulated parliamentary session.