



JOINT DECLARATION OF THE INAUGURAL P20 MEETING OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA 2025

Preamble

1. We, Young Parliamentarians from G20 member countries and partner nations, have convened on 29 and 30 September 2025 in Kleinmond, Western Cape, South Africa, under the auspices of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, for the inaugural P20 Meeting of Young Parliamentarians, held as part of the 11th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20).
2. We have come together, under the theme *Young parliamentarians as drivers of global solidarity, equality and sustainability*, to share insights, to use parliamentary diplomacy as a way to find lasting solutions to cross-cutting challenges facing young people globally, and to integrate the perspectives and needs of young parliamentarians into the discussions and decision-making processes of the 11th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20).
3. We have also gathered to contribute a youth dimension to the work of the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) and to advance the global youth agenda through enhanced participation in global governance and the development agenda.
4. We reaffirm our belief in the power of parliamentary diplomacy, inclusive governance and youth-led innovation to shape a fairer, more peaceful and sustainable world, and to build consensus across diverse political systems.
5. We remain committed to promoting legislative cooperation in order to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on age, in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
6. We acknowledge Youth2030, the United Nations (UN) Youth Strategy, which was launched in 2018 and seeks to empower young people, protect their rights, and ensure their meaningful participation in policymaking and decision-making processes as agents of change in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



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7. We note several UN World Youth Reports, and in particular: *Youth Employment: Youth Perspectives on the Pursuit of Decent Work in Changing Times* (2011); *Youth and Migration* (2013); *Youth Civic Engagement* (2016); *Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2018); and *Youth Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda* (2020).
8. We recall key UN resolutions addressing youth issues, and in particular various UN General Assembly resolutions on policies and programmes, as well as UN Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020) on youth, peace and security.
9. We acknowledge the UN Pact for the Future, adopted in 2024, which places youth and future generations at its core. We note Act 34, which commits the international community to invest in the social and economic development of today's generation of children and young people.
10. We note the work that has been done by the UN Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change since 2008, particularly in facilitating the coordination and implementation of climate initiatives for children and young people.
11. We recognize the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) resolution *Youth participation in the democratic process*, adopted in 2010 by the 122nd IPU Assembly, which called for greater youth inclusion in political decision-making and led to the creation of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians.
12. We acknowledge IPU reports highlighting persistent youth underrepresentation in parliaments even though young people comprise over 23% of the global population and that half the world's population is under age 30.
13. We also acknowledge the outcomes of IPU World Conferences of Speakers of Parliament, most recently in July 2025, through which Speakers have pledged to make politics genuinely open to young people and called for enhanced youth participation.



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14. We welcome the 2021 *Call to action on young women's political participation and leadership*, published jointly by the IPU and the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, which identified three priority areas for increasing young women's representation in politics.
15. We strongly encourage the UN Youth Office to advance its work on the Youth in Politics index, as laid down in the UN Secretary-General's 2021 report *Our Common Agenda* and reiterated in the *UN Youth Office Strategic Plan 2025-2028*.
16. We remain mindful of the outcomes of the G20 Leaders' Summits and the associated declarations, in particularly the Antalya Goal adopted by the 2015 G20 Antalya Summit, wherein leaders agreed to reduce the share of youth not in employment, education or training by 15% by 2025.
17. We note regional instruments and mechanisms designed to address the persistent challenges facing young people, including inequality, education barriers, unemployment, violence and participation gaps.
18. We reaffirm the principles of democracy, multilateralism and human rights, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international instruments.
19. We acknowledge that it is imperative for young parliamentarians to play an active role in shaping global and national policy agendas, and to bring the voices, experiences and aspirations of youth into the heart of democratic institutions.

Challenges and opportunities

20. We note with concern that, despite landmark IPU resolutions on youth participation, progress remains slow. Only 2.8% of MPs globally are aged 30 or under and 18.8% are aged 40 or under. These figures fall far short of the IPU targets of 15% of MPs under age 30 and 35% under age 40 by 2025.



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21. We are alarmed by high levels of youth unemployment, which averages about 13% worldwide and more than double that in many developing economies.
22. We note the persistent digital divide, with 2.2 billion children and young people under age 25 lacking access to the internet in their homes.
23. We are concerned about the intersecting crises of mental-health fragility, escalating conflict-driven displacement, mortality and morbidity, and the rising cost of living that now consumes 38% of young people's monthly income across the G20.
24. We therefore recognize the unique challenges and opportunities faced by our generation, as well as the critical role of young leaders in shaping inclusive, peaceful and sustainable societies.
25. We acknowledge that most young people globally are disproportionately affected by global challenges from climate change and unemployment to conflicts, violence against women and inequality.
26. In accordance with the principle of "nothing about us without us", we hereby adopt by consensus our collective commitment to the following shared principles and actions

Advancing global solidarity

27. We emphasize the need to harness parliamentary diplomacy for the promotion of inclusive multilateralism and meaningful youth participation in international decision-making platforms.
28. We underscore the need to strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation among young legislators to bridge divides and promote shared solutions to global challenges.



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Promoting equality and sustainable development

29. We call for intensified efforts towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination and inequality, including on grounds of sex, race, disability, and economic or social status, as well as towards the elimination of the digital divide.
30. We emphasize the need to develop and implement public policies, programmes and actions that promote rural succession and ensure the rights of young people in rural areas, forests and waters. This requires removing barriers that hinder their access to land, education, technology and credit, while promoting generational renewal in agriculture, forest management and fisheries.
31. We support youth empowerment policies that promote equitable access to education, decent work, healthcare, energy, digital connectivity and political representation.
32. We underscore the need to ensure that legislative and budgetary frameworks uphold the rights and dignity of all, including by guaranteeing equal protection and opportunities for women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and minorities, whose participation and leadership are essential to achieving equality and sustainable development.
33. We remain cognizant of the fact that youth issues are cross-cutting and addressed across multiple SDGs, and that while there is no single Goal exclusively dedicated to youth, several Goals explicitly refer to young people or directly impact youth development, particularly in areas such as education, employment, health and participation.
34. We call for continuous monitoring of the implementation of SDG targets relating to youth, including targets 3.7, 4.4, 4.5, 8.3, 8.6, 10.2, 16.7 and 17.16.



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Promoting parliamentary action to address climate change and sustainability

35. We note the importance of strengthening partnerships among all countries, parliaments, research establishments, governments, private institutions and civil society organizations in combating climate change.
36. We underscore the need for parliamentarians' participation in addressing climate change and the importance of implementing domestic laws aligned with national adaptation plans, and adaptation communications as well as nationally determined contributions (NDCs), as appropriate.
37. We call upon parliaments to put in place relevant legislation and oversight mechanisms to address mitigation and adaptation efforts in line with NDCs, and with the objectives and principles of the goals and principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, in accordance with their countries' common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
38. We reiterate the need to address the climate emergency as a cross-cutting issue requiring legislative commitment and intergenerational cooperation.
39. We call upon parliaments to exercise their legislative, oversight and representation functions to address the needs of those disproportionately affected by climate change, particularly those in vulnerable situations.
40. We support the implementation of the SDGs, and particularly those relating to climate resilience, zero and low-emission innovation, and sustainable economies.
41. We commit to adding valuable youth perspectives through our participation and involvement in legislative processes, from reviewing legislation and budgets to using oversight tools to monitor government implementation of climate policies.



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Promoting youth-oriented institutional reforms and inclusive political and development participation

42. We acknowledge that parliaments, through their legislative, oversight and accountability, and public participation functions, are well positioned to advance the development of young people as builders of communities and agents of change.
43. We also acknowledge that youth representation in parliament is key to ensuring youth participation in politics and development, and we remain convinced of the usefulness of measures in the following areas: creating enabling environments for young MPs through training, mentoring, childcare facilities, flexible parliamentary schedules and remote working; implementing gender transformative approaches that tackle social norms around gender, power and violence; and adopting intersectional approaches that address the amplified exclusion experienced by young people with disabilities.
44. We commit to actively involving young people in parliamentary processes, ensuring their voices are heard and their perspectives are considered, thus helping to advance innovation and sustainable development and build resilient communities.
45. We call upon senior parliamentarians, governments and international organizations to institutionalize youth participation and integrate youth perspectives in all policy processes through youth mainstreaming.
46. We call upon the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) to consider establishing a P20 Meeting of Young Parliamentarians as a permanent component of the P20 process, providing a platform for young MPs to inform global legislative priorities.
47. We call upon fellow young leaders to continue mobilizing for transformation within their national parliaments and communities, as well as via global platforms.



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48. We endorse longstanding recommendations of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians, as reflected in the IPU's *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign, and call upon all parliamentarians to sign up to one or more of the campaign pledges, namely: considering youth quotas; aligning the age of eligibility with that of voting; supporting youth channels in parliament; empowering young parliamentarians; mentoring young aspirants; and advocating for youth participation.
49. We call for action in the following areas: parliamentary engagement, including the establishment of youth parliamentary programmes and caucuses, and the development of formal youth charters; policy integration, including the embedding and mainstreaming of youth issues in legislative processes; economic opportunities, including the development of legislative and other measures that promote youth entrepreneurship and employment opportunities, as well as efforts to ensure that economic opportunities are seen within the context of the fulfilment of broader socioeconomic and civil and political rights; and the digital divide and participation, including legislation that addresses the digital divide caused by the emergence and adoption of artificial intelligence, as well as the use of digital platforms for youth engagement.

Final remarks

50. As young legislators, we reaffirm our dedication to harnessing parliamentary diplomacy to foster a world that is fair, united and sustainable. We recognize our shared responsibility in building bridges across nations and generations, and we commit to being proactive agents of change, dialogue and resilience.
51. We congratulate the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa for its successful hosting of the inaugural P20 Meeting of Young Parliamentarians and express our gratitude for the hospitality received from the Parliament and people of South Africa.



PARLIAMENT
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52. Following our productive deliberations at the inaugural P20 Meeting of Young Parliamentarians, this Joint Declaration will be circulated among all participants for review before its formal submission to the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20).

We express our gratitude to the P20 Presidency and commend all young parliamentarians who contributed to the success of this gathering. Their collective expertise and commitment have shaped these deliberations and strengthened our resolve to advance youth participation in G20 decision-making processes.

Adopted 30 September 2025