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PARLIAMENT OF KENYA



13TH PARLIAMENT

(FIFTH SESSION)

**REPORT OF THE 10TH INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)
GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS
HELD IN YEREVAN, ARMENIA
12TH TO 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2024**



Clerks Chambers
Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI

April, 2026

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

PART ONE

PREFACE

Honourable Speaker,

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the world organization of Parliaments, is a global forum for parliamentary dialogue, co-operation and action. The Union advances democracy and assists Parliaments and parliamentarians throughout the world to fulfill their mandates. The Assembly is made up of 179 member parliaments. The IPU facilitates parliamentary debate, dialogue and cooperation and also promotes and defends democracy and the rule of law while assisting Parliaments in coping with growing international agenda relevant to their duties.
2. The IPU Assembly is the principal statutory body that expresses the views of the Inter Parliamentary Union on political issues. It brings together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for parliamentary and governmental action. The Assembly meets twice a year and is held each time in a different country, providing participants with an opportunity to see various national events.
3. The 10th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians took place from 12th to 14th September 2024, in Yerevan, Armenia. The theme of this conference was **“Avoiding lost generations: Preserving education and employment in all circumstances”**.
4. The Tenth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians took place eight years after the adoption of the *Hanoi Declaration on The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Action by IPU Member Parliaments in 2015*. As this is the mid-way point to achieving the SDGs by 2030, the Conference took stock of progress and highlighted the rising importance of technology and innovation to accelerate action towards these global goals. More specifically, the Conference empowered young MPs to build knowledge and experience to better position themselves to perform their roles on timely topics such as digital transformation, innovation and start-ups, and cultural and human values for sustainable development. Delegations were therefore encouraged to come prepared with examples of good practices to share with their colleagues.

Honourable Speaker,

5. The Kenyan delegation to the 9th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians comprised the following-
- i) Hon. Dorice Donya, MP - Leader of Delegation
 - ii) Hon. John Bwire, MP -Delegate
 - iii) Hon. Gideon Kimaiyo, MP -Delegate
 - iv) Ms. Anne Shibuko,
Clerk Assistant I -Secretary to the Delegation
6. During the conference, members of the Kenya delegation were actively involved in the deliberations that greatly enriched the resolutions.
7. On behalf of the delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in ensuring that Kenya was well represented during the 10th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians.

Honourable Speaker,

8. Article 7 of the IPU Statutes mandates Members of the IPU to submit the resolutions of the IPU within their respective Parliament, in the most appropriate form; to communicate them to the Government; to stimulate their implementation and to inform the IPU Secretariat, as often and fully as possible, particularly in its annual reports, of the steps taken and the results obtained.
9. In accordance with Article 7 of the Statutes of the IPU, it is my pleasure and humble duty to submit this report, highlighting the discussions and the conference statement of the 10th Inter-Parliamentary Union Global Conference for young parliamentarians to Parliament for noting and necessary action.

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HON. DORICE DONYA, M.P.
LEADER OF THE DELEGATION

DATE.....21/4/2026.....

1. ABOUT THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was established in 1889 as the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue. It exists to protect and build global democracy through political dialogue and concrete action. The current membership is 179 parliaments and 12 associate members. The IPU works closely with the United Nations and other partner organizations with similar ideals. To this end, the IPU aims at -
 - i) Fostering contacts, coordination and the exchange of experience among Parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries;
 - ii) Considering questions of international interest and expressing its views on such issues with the aim of bringing about action by Parliaments and their members;
 - iii) Contributing to the defense and promotion of human rights, which are universal in scope and respect for which is an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development; and
 - iv) Contributing to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.
2. The IPU's main areas of activity are representative democracy, international peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian law, women in politics and education science and culture.
3. The IPU Assembly is the principal statutory body that expresses the views of the Inter Parliamentary Union on political issues. It brings together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for parliamentary and governmental action. The Assembly meets twice a year and is held each time in a different country, providing participants with an opportunity to see various national events.
4. The organs of the IPU are the Assembly, the Governing Council, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat. IPU also works through committees, working groups and other *ad hoc* bodies. The following committees and bodies are currently in place:
 - i) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security;
 - ii) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade;
 - iii) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights;
 - iv) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs;

- v) Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians;
- vi) Committee on Middle East Questions;
- vii) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus;
- viii) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law;
- ix) Advisory Group on Health;
- x) Gender Partnership Group;
- xi) High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism;
- xii) Forum of Women Parliamentarians; and
- xiii) Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE IPU ANNUAL GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS

5. In 2010, at the 122nd IPU Assembly in Bangkok, Thailand, IPU Member Parliaments adopted a landmark resolution entitled *Youth participation in the democratic process*. The resolution stated that achieving meaningful democracy required the full and active participation of youth and youth organizations in democratic processes at the local, national, regional and international levels. In that spirit, in 2013, the IPU established the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, a formal and permanent body dedicated to enhancing the quantitative and qualitative participation of young people in parliaments and in the IPU.
6. In 2014, the IPU established the annual Global Conference mechanism to contribute to:
 - i) strengthening the role of young parliamentarians and youth participation in parliamentary activities;
 - ii) making recommendations from the perspective of young people's views on the activities and agenda of the IPU; and
 - iii) networking, solidarity and capacity-building, broadening young people's approaches to issues of mutual concern.
7. Nine Global Conferences have taken place, on various topics including: youth participation in politics and democracy (Switzerland, 2014); democracy, peace and prosperity (Japan, 2015); the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Zambia, 2016); economic, social and political inclusion (Canada, 2017); the promotion of sustainability and the protection of the interests of future generations (Azerbaijan, 2018); achieving the SDGs and empowering youth through social welfare (Paraguay, 2019); post-COVID-19 youth approach (2021, online conference format); responding to

climate change (Egypt,2022); and digital transformation and innovation (Viet Nam, 2023).

8. The 10th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians reaffirmed a shared resolve to address youth's multifaceted challenges. It underscored that while the path forward remains fraught with difficulties, the collective efforts of individuals, organisations, and countries offer a beacon of hope and a pathway to meaningful change.
9. The three-day conference by the IPU and the National Assembly of Armenia, the gathered more than 300 young parliamentarians from 150 countries to share experiences, support one another, boost youth participation in parliaments and ensure young MPs play a full role in the work of parliament.

3. THE 10TH IPU GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS

10. At the invitation of the National Assembly of Armenia, the 10th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians from Thursday, 12th to Saturday, 14th September 2024.
11. Young MPs from around the world convened during this conference. The Conference focused on the overall theme of ***“Avoiding lost generations: Preserving education and employment in all circumstances”***.
12. Education and employment are the foundations on which young people can build prosperous lives. This is reaffirmed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in which all countries of the world underlined the importance of Quality education (SDG 4), and Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8). However, crises such as wars and conflicts, pandemics, climate change, and economic downturns significantly impact young people's ability to attend school, receive training and find decent work.
13. Today, only one in six countries are on track to meet the goal of universal quality education by 2030. Young people are more than three times more likely to be unemployed compared to older adults. These gaps are exacerbated in times of crisis: more than 240 million young people's education is being disrupted due to conflict. During the COVID-19

pandemic, one in six young people stopped working and over 40% reported reduced income. These situations are even more difficult in groups of young people who are in vulnerable situations or subject to intersecting discriminations, including women, people with disabilities, migrants, displaced people and more.

14. While comprehensive global data is scarce, we often hear of many youth expressing a sense that they have fewer opportunities compared to their parents' generation. Failure to address young people's socio-economic rights at all times jeopardizes the present and future prospects of youth and can lead to a generation lost to hopelessness in many countries. Young parliamentarians are best positioned to protect and promote the rights, needs and interests of young people. They can channel their voices into politics, promote impactful legislation and policies, ensure adequate budgetary allocations, and oversee government action to ensure that the rights, needs and interests of young people are preserved and promoted at all times.

15. As a unique platform for young members of parliaments to exchange, learn, and define common solutions, the Tenth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians will provide an opportunity to turn the tide and place youth education and employment at the centre at a time of multiple global crises. It will focus on exploring how to ensure that there are no lost generations, and that education and employment are provided at all times and to all young people.

16. The following topics were highlighted:

- a) **Countdown to 2030: Where are we with youth education and employment?** Participants assessed progress – or lack thereof – by the global community and their respective countries in achieving quality education and decent work and identified areas where more concerted actions are needed.
- b) **Young lives disrupted: The impact of crises on youth socio-economic rights and empowerment.** Participants examined the disruptive effects of global crises, including wars, economic downturns, pandemics and climate change, on youth education and employment. The session looked at the legislative, policy, budgetary

and oversight measures young MPs can take to champion youth education and employment, especially in such times of crisis.

- c) **Leaving no one behind: Delivering education and employment to the most vulnerable and marginalized.** Young parliamentarians zoomed in on the situations of young people in particularly vulnerable situations and youth facing intersecting discrimination and marginalization and examined how they and their parliaments can deliver more inclusive and responsive policy-making to vulnerable groups of young people.

17. The following outlines the main topics of the Conference–

3.1 Session One: Countdown To 2030: Where are we on Youth Education and Employment?

18. The Session was chaired by Mr. Lord Fakafanua, Speaker of Parliament, Tonga, Member of the IPU Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. Participants assessed progress – or lack thereof – by the global community and their respective countries in achieving quality education and decent work, and identify areas where more concerted actions are needed. Presentations by panelists were followed by an exchange of good practices and ongoing challenges in advancing youth education and employment.

19. Dr. Felipe Paullier, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs emphasized the critical need for meaningful youth participation in governance, advocating for the "nothing about us without us" principle. He urged for breaking down structural barriers to include young people in decision-making to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He emphasized on:

- i) *Meaningful Participation:* young people must move from the sidelines to the center of decision-making, ensuring their perspectives shape policies on peace, security, and development.
- ii) *Intergenerational Partnership:* He highlighted the necessity of bridging generational gaps, recognizing that young people bring unique skills and perspectives essential for solving modern crises.
- iii) *Accountability and Action:* He called on leaders to go beyond simply inviting youth to the table, urging them to foster true partnership, invest in young people, and act on their input.

- iv) *Focus on Future Generations:* As the youngest senior UN appointment, he leveraged his position to champion the rights of future generations and promote inclusive, transparent democratic processes.
20. Dr. Paullier reinforced that true intergenerational partnership is vital for achieving peace, defending human rights, and creating a sustainable, equitable future.
21. The Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Vahan Kostanyan observed that it was symbolic that the 10th anniversary Global Conference was being held in Armenia, a country with a millennia-old history and culture and, at the same time, a young parliamentary democracy striving to deliver progressive changes for its citizens, particularly youth who are not only the future but the present of Armenia.
22. He expressed gratitude to Dr. Felipe Paullier, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, for his attendance at the Conference and insightful remarks outlining efforts of his Office to promote the youth agenda across the UN system. The establishment of the new office within the United Nations reflected a global commitment to addressing youth issues in a more integrated and holistic manner.
23. Every individual has the right to education, furthermore quality and inclusive education, and pragmatically it is essential for developing human capital and ensuring equal opportunities for decent work. The very fact that quality education is one of SDGs is very vocal.
24. He emphasized that with the legislative bestowed to parliamentarians uniquely positioned them to drive transformative changes that will empower youth and facilitate their full, equal and meaningful participation in all areas of public life. He shared that recently, Armenia had implemented a range of systemic, legal, and practical reforms in education, aligning with SDG 4 and its targets.
25. The adoption of the State Education Development Programme of the Republic of Armenia 2030 in 2022 represents a significant milestone in the country's efforts to transform its education system. The programme also extensively addressed vocational education and creation of lifelong learning opportunities to facilitate the transition from school to work and align skills with labor market needs, thereby helping to reduce youth unemployment.

26. He implored upon participants that collective efforts should be intensified to ensure that every young person has access to quality and affordable education and decent job opportunities. By prioritizing innovation, inclusivity, and collaboration, legislators can transform the current landscape and empower the next generation to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.
27. The UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education, Stefania Giannini, emphasized the critical need for resilient, inclusive education systems in times of crisis. She highlighted the role of young leaders in transforming education, focusing on digital competency, ethical AI, and ensuring continuity of learning for displaced youth.
28. Mr. Francis Azubuike, Member of the Steering Committee, Global Students Forum underscored the critical need to prioritize the education agenda, especially as we progress beyond the halfway point for achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
29. During the panel session, Mr. Azubuike shed light on several key challenges that students face globally, including those in crisis situations. He highlighted issues such as the difficulty in accessing quality education, financial constraints, mental health concerns, inequality and discrimination against marginalized communities, and outdated curricula that do not prepare students for the modern workforce.
30. In his address, Francis emphasized the importance of making education systems more resilient and sustainable. He urged nations to follow UNESCO's recommendation of allocating 26% of their annual national budgets to the education sector. Furthermore, he called on young MPs to be the driving force in advocating for this critical funding.
31. Francis also stressed the significance of building strong connections with students by engaging in active listening, supporting student-led initiatives, and offering opportunities for student involvement through volunteerism and internships.
32. Hon Adrien Charles Duval, Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius, the world's youngest Speaker of Parliament shared his perspective on the value of youth political leadership to protect and promote education and

employment for youth in times of crisis and more particularly from the perspective of one of many small island states dealing with emergencies, including the climate change emergency.

33. Referencing the profound impact young people have had throughout history, he highlighted the civil rights movements of the 1960s to the recent global climate strikes, in which youth have consistently been driving force of social change.
34. He emphasized that young people bring new ideas, tech-savvy approaches, and a sense of urgency to political discourse. The Armenian parliament was truly commendable in this respect, being presently the world's youngest Parliament with an average age of 40. Young voices are heard and respected in all aspects of policy-making processes by promoting the creation of impactful youth advisory boards at national levels to ensure proper consultation on key government policies that will impact them directly.
35. Mauritius and Small Island Developing States Mauritius, like other small island developing states with no known natural resources, face unique challenges. Despite being one of the least polluting countries globally, the islands topped the charts as the most vulnerable countries impacted by climate change. Beaches and ocean, which are the backbone of tourism and fishing industries were under incredible threat from climate change. The disappearance of coral reefs by 2050 with the rising sea temperatures and by extension the disappearance of sea life, not to mention changing currents which is destroying beaches, is the reality faced. These industries account for a quarter of our economy, both in terms of revenue and employment.
36. Although Mauritius had already made significant strides in education and youth development. It is simply not enough, in the face of climate change. It therefore meant that islands must heavily invest in education, technology, and innovation to ensure survival beyond 2050. The solution lay in cooperation and meaningful support to strengthen physical and digital infrastructures, to enable mitigation and adaptation to climate change both in terms of protection of the population and economies.

3.2 Session Two: Young Lives disrupted: The impact of Crisis on Youth Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment

37. The session was chaired by Mr. Mohamed Anouar Bouchouit, Member of Parliament, Algeria, Member of the IPU Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. Participants examined the disruptive effects of global crises, including wars, economic downturns, pandemics and climate change, on youth education and employment. They looked at the legislative, policy, budgetary and oversight measures young MPs can take to champion youth education and employment, especially in such times of crisis.
38. In his statement, UNHCR Armenia's External Relations Officer, Kiri Atri, acknowledged the progress in integrating refugee youth into educational systems and job markets, stating, "While we have seen encouraging successes, the barriers still persist." He emphasised the necessity for comprehensive policy frameworks beyond partial remedies, advocating for enhanced access to education, job opportunities, and long-term residency for refugees. He cited successful practices from Armenia, Germany, Jordan, Canada, and Australia, demonstrating the value of legal access to labour markets and skills-based approaches in effectively integrating refugees.
39. Mr. Kiri Atri also urged parliamentarians to take action, including building and enhancing state systems that prevent and respond to human displacement tragedies, ensuring the protection of individuals both in transit and upon arrival, to develop legal frameworks that are inclusive and sensitive to the needs of the most vulnerable, especially refugee children and youth; to uphold international commitments based on existing human rights treaties; and to create legal frameworks that facilitate the implementation of best practices for refugee integration, focusing on education, employment, and social cohesion.
40. Mr. Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, Member of Parliament, Canada focused on the importance of high-quality public education and the need to share best practices to address youth unemployment. He highlighted the successful graduation rates in Canada, while also recognizing Canada's history of discrimination against First Nations and the continued need to improve education opportunities for Indigenous communities despite some recent progress. He also spoke to the issue of rising youth unemployment in Canada, and the need to prioritize outcomes over announcements in our

youth employment and skills strategy. He encouraged other delegates to share best practices in supporting youth employment from their own countries.

41. Mr. Olamijuwonlo Alao-Akala, Member of Parliament, Nigeria emphasized strengthening youth roles in governance and addressing crises affecting youth rights. He advocated for Youth-Centric Policies by advocating for legislative, education, and employment policies that reflect the needs of young people, inclusion in Governance through championing the need for young people to have a "seat at the table" and actively participate in political processes, and Utilizing the Young Parliamentarians Forum to drive forward-thinking legislation for national progress.

3.3 Session Three: Leaving no one Behind: Delivering Education and Employment to the most Vulnerable and Marginalized

42. The session was chaired by Mr. Dan Carden, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom, President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU. This capacity-building session featured presentations from experts and representatives specializing in protecting and empowering marginalized groups or those in vulnerable situations. By building knowledge and sharing tips and advice, it explored: How to identify vulnerable and marginalized youth groups, what can help MPs identify the needs of vulnerable youth groups and inspiring examples of good practice in responsive education and employment policies or initiatives targeting vulnerable youth populations.
43. Ms. Kasia Kos, Advisor on Influencing and Partnerships for Parliamentary Engagement at the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), addressed young parliamentarians on the intersection of health, education and social protection within the HIV response. She underscored the vital role legislators play in strengthening legal frameworks that protect vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls, and called on young MPs to champion reforms ensuring access to education and employment even in times of crisis. Her contribution reinforced the session's core message that ending AIDS by 2030 demands not only political will, but deliberate legislative action in service of the most marginalized.

44. FNC member Majid Al Mazrouei said that the United Arab Emirates has achieved significant success in many initiatives, most notably: the "Education for All" initiative, which provides free or subsidised education to ensure everyone has the opportunity to learn; the "Window of Hope" programme, which focuses on training and employing people with disabilities in the job market; and the "Youth Empowerment" programme, which encourages entrepreneurship and provides financial support and training to young people to enable them to launch their own projects.

45. He noted that vulnerable and marginalised groups face tremendous challenges when it comes to accessing education and employment opportunities. These challenges, he explained, include economic and social factors that make it difficult for them to benefit from available opportunities.

46. This required the development of employment policies that enhance the inclusion of these groups into the labour market, as well as providing training and rehabilitation programmes to help them acquire the skills needed to compete in the modern digital economy, he added.

3.4 Session Four: Preserving Youth Empowerment in times of crisis: What Young MPs Can Do

Working group sessions

47. The conference included working group discussions designed to brainstorm, share best practices, and develop action-oriented solutions for young MPs regarding education, employment, and navigating global crises.

48. Building on the previous session, participants delved more deeply into specific issues related to youth education and employment in times of crisis. The working groups explored concrete actions by young MPs, foster collaboration and identify policy solutions.

49. Mr. Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, Member of Parliament, Canada shared information on the Canada Summer Jobs and Youth Employment and Skills Strategy programs, how he engages young people in schools and through his youth council, and that work is underway to realize a youth climate corps and to prioritize young people in federal budgets.

50. The working group discussions resulted in an action-oriented outcome document focusing on the following key areas:

a) Education and Employment Security

- i) *Access to Education*: Participants committed to ensuring free, accessible, and quality education for all, especially during crises.
- ii) *Future Skills*: Working groups discussed the need to modernize curricula to match future job market demands, with a heavy emphasis on digital infrastructure and skills training.
- iii) *Job Creation*: Proposals focused on developing robust job programs, increasing access to micro-credit, and promoting entrepreneurship to support youth employment.
- iv) *Protection of Rights*: Discussions highlighted the need for decent working conditions and the prevention of exploitation.

b) Response to Global Crises

- i) *Resilient Systems*: Working groups examined ways to make education systems more resilient to shocks such as pandemics, wars, and climate change.
- ii) *Policy & Budget*: Young MPs analyzed legislative and budgetary measures to protect youth socio-economic rights during times of instability.

c) Inclusion and Marginalized Groups

- i) *Refugee Education*: A key focus was developing educational frameworks for displaced, refugee, and migrant youth.
- ii) *Targeted Policies*: Working groups emphasized the need for inclusive labor policies that specifically reach marginalized young people facing intersecting forms of discrimination.

d) Youth Political Participation

- i) *Empowerment*: Discussions reaffirmed the role of young MPs in building sustainable peace, acting as mediators, and strengthening democracy.
- ii) *Age Limits*: The conference addressed the need to lower the minimum age for running for parliament to increase youth representation in decision-making.

3.5 Session Five: Unconference

51. The Conference featured a participant-led **Unconference session** designed as a free, unscripted space for spontaneous exchange. Young parliamentarians took the lead of on voting on topics of their choice on through an online system to select the most relevant issues for discussion.
52. The Topics votes by the young parliamentarians were *Leveraging education outcomes to enhance employment and national development for future generations* and *Global solidarity in crisis: Safeguarding education in conflict zones*.
53. The session aimed to foster interactivity, capacity-building, and the sharing of personal reflections and "good practices" from different national contexts, and was chaired by Ms. Sara Falaknaz, Member of Parliament, United Arab Emirates, Member of the IPU Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians.
54. While the Unconference served as a flexible space, the broader conference theme—"**Avoiding lost generations: Preserving education and employment in all circumstances**" heavily influenced the discussions. Key issues raised during the interactive segments included:
- iii) *Youth Employment Strategies*: Addressing the specific impact of global crises (economic downturns, pandemics, and climate change) on the socio-economic rights of young people.
 - iv) *Digital Transformation*: The need to modernize curricula and leverage technology, including Artificial Intelligence, to create more equitable learning environments.
 - v) *Vulnerable Groups*: Delivering inclusive policy-making to ensure education and employment reach marginalized youth, including refugees.
 - vi) *Housing and Family Support*: Participants highlighted the importance of affordable housing as a foundation for long-term economic stability for young families.
55. Some of the Legislative and Policy Measures agreed upon in the Unconference were as follows:

a) Education

- (i) *Guaranteed Universal Access*: Commitment to enshrining the right to free and accessible education for all in national legislation.
- (ii) *Curriculum Modernization*: Updating national education standards to meet the demands of future economies, with a focus on digital literacy and AI.
- (iii) *Digital Infrastructure Investment*: Legislative backing for increased state funding to bridge the digital divide, ensuring equitable access to online learning.

b) Employment & Economic Stability

- (i) *Entrepreneurship Support*: Implementation of **micro-credit schemes** and government-backed startup grants specifically for youth-led businesses.
- (ii) *Inclusive Labour Policies*: Developing legal frameworks to integrate refugees and marginalized groups into the formal workforce.
- (iii) *Affordable Housing*: Identifying housing as a critical legislative priority to ensure the long-term economic stability of young families.

c) Oversight & Rights Protection

- (i) *Crisis Preparedness*: Developing "legislative and budgetary measures" to protect socio-economic rights (education and jobs) during future wars, pandemics, or climate disasters.
- (ii) *Youth Talent Databases*: Managing national talent registries and providing financial/technical assistance to high-potential youth.
- (iii) *Enforcement Against Exploitation*: Training for law enforcement and social workers to specifically handle cases of youth exploitation in the labor market.

Strategic Parliamentary Initiatives agreed upon in the Unconference were:

- (i) *"I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!" Campaign*: Parliaments pledged to lower the age of eligibility for office and establish mentorship programs for young MPs.
- (ii) *Intergenerational Dialogues*: Creating formal legal channels for young people to participate in the design and monitoring of national development plans.

3.6 Closing Session

56. The President of the Republic Vahagn Khachaturyan participated in the closing session of the tenth global conference of Young Parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and delivered a speech.
57. Participation of the youth in decision-making and determination to lead are crucial to building a progressive, sustainable and inclusive society. He emphasized that young parliamentarians have a unique opportunity to consolidate the aspirations of the younger generation in a legislative format and that such platforms create an opportunity for the full realization of the potential of young people aspiring to leadership.
58. In the modern world, which is marked by global geopolitical changes, technological and digital transformations, socio-economic changes, challenges and trials, the dynamics of public relations are also changing and, in this context, youth as a key potential of the state has a clear role. The efficiency of the state management system depends on the quality of human resources, which in turn leads to an increase in the efficiency of all, including social, sectors of the economy.
59. Highlighting the key themes of the conference: education and employment, the president underscored that he was a supporter of a powerful, transformative force in education, learning and work. In the period of globalization and technological progress, the young generation has access to a wide variety of resources, unlimited opportunities, unlike in the past when education had limited resources and does not recognize geographical boundaries, as in previous years.
60. Due to the features of the information technology revolution, a new economic system has been formed at present. Education, knowledge, innovation and research in the realities of the 21st century are indispensable elements of sustainable economic growth and increasing the competitiveness of economies, assets through which demographic and labor limitations can be overcome.
61. Education is the cornerstone of limitless opportunities that can generate ideas, develop new approaches, empower individuals, stimulate innovation

and drive economies to meet today's and tomorrow's challenges. By creating a knowledge-based environment, Armenia strives to develop an economy that should offer technological and innovative products to the world.

62. In conclusion, the President reminded delegates that regardless of the challenges, whether an economic downturn, a global pandemic, or social upheaval, the commitment to preserving educational opportunities should never be undermined. In the modern world, which is often characterized by uncertainty, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that the basic pillars of society are preserved and strengthened regardless of circumstances.

63. The IPU President Dr. Tulia Ackson stated that she was deeply inspired by the discussions and exchanges and extended heartfelt thanks to the National Assembly of Armenia for hosting the remarkable event. Armenia, a Nation that honours both its ancient heritage and its modern aspirations, particularly its dedication to youth empowerment, had provided the perfect backdrop to our conversations.

64. During the conference, participants explored some of the most pressing challenges of our time: conflict, economic hardship, public health emergencies, and climate change, and discussed the need to deliver for everyone, including having support groups in vulnerable situations. Most importantly, young parliamentarians reiterated their shared commitment: that no decisions will be made about youth, without youth.

65. The recommendations and initiatives would serve as the blueprint for real, tangible action in our respective nations. She reminded young legislators to be relentless in advocating for policies that ensure that education is accessible to all, that employment opportunities are available to everyone, and that every voice, regardless of gender, age, or ability, is heard and valued.

66. Progress on education and employment, which are the pillars of opportunity, is essential if we are to truly empower our youth and build sustainable, inclusive societies.

4. CONFERENCE STATEMENT OF THE 10TH IPU GLOBAL CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS

At the conclusion of the 10th IPU Global Conference for Young Parliamentarians adopted the following Conference Statement-

67. We, 144 young parliamentarians from 52 countries, gathered in Yerevan from 12 to 14 September 2024 to reaffirm our commitment to empowering youth amidst multiple crises in the world today. Our average age was 37.3 years and 40% of us were women.
68. Ensuring quality education and employment opportunities for all is essential for building a fair and inclusive world where everyone has the chance to thrive. This is about more than just earning a paycheck; it is about conforming to socioeconomic rights, respecting human dignity and fulfilling common values. Education and employment are enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 4 and SDG 8 and are at the cornerstone of the SDGs promise of leaving no one behind. Yet, without additional measures, by 2030, only one in 6 countries will achieve the SDG target for universal secondary school completion. Similarly, one in 4 young people is not in education or training, with young women more than twice as likely as young men to be in this situation.
69. We expressed our worry that such gaps are exacerbated in times of crisis and conflict, and called for the prioritization of education and employment opportunities for young people as core components of sustaining peace and promoting human security.
70. Beyond conflict, pandemics and climate change are other critical crises challenging education and employment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, 1.5 billion children and youth worldwide were affected by school closures, and the intellectual and mental health impacts of this disruption persist even after the pandemic has subsided. Greater international cooperation, including through the forthcoming Pandemic Accord, is necessary to mitigate the negative impacts of such health emergencies. Climate change may displace over one billion people by 2050 and will drive significant populations to seek education and work abroad. This is already severely affecting education and employment in small island developing States (SIDS).

71. In order to ensure quality education in times of crisis, we, young MPs propose the following actions:

- a) Guarantee access to education for all, including through free and compulsory education for those faced with crisis situations. This includes increased budgeting for education, the inclusion of refugees and displaced persons in national education systems supported by flexible curricula, language and mental health programmes and teacher training.
- b) When in-person education is not possible as a result of crisis, promote virtual and hybrid models of education. This includes ensuring adequate investment in the necessary infrastructure to bridge digital divides and allow access in remote or crisis-affected areas.
- c) Oversee education curricula so that they promote a culture of peace and build the skills needed to excel in the jobs of the future, including in digital technologies and the green economy.

72. Decent employment is also central to everyone's participation in society, contributing to self-sufficiency and a sense of identity. Employment is also key to social and economic integration, particularly for newcomers to countries. Enabling youth in crisis settings to contribute to their communities through work and enterprise is a guarantee for the present and an investment for the future.

73. Recognizing employment as a foundational ingredient for prosperous and peaceful societies, we, young MPs, propose to:

- a) In times of crisis, ensure that investment in employment is increased for programmes that support youth economic empowerment, including through job and micro-credit programmes, and other initiatives that can ensure a basic livable income.
- b) Ensure inclusive labour market policies that address the specific needs of resettled refugees. This includes advocacy for job assessment and placement services that provide language assistance and professional development, enabling refugees to integrate effectively into the workforce and contribute to their communities.

- c) Advocate for increased investment in humanitarian aid and its use towards the development of small businesses and support the creation of business incubators that facilitate entrepreneurship, empowering young people and those displaced to build sustainable livelihoods and to grow economically.
- d) Address the housing crisis faced in many countries, including through increased state investments to build affordable housing and providing subsidies to first-time homeowners.

74. The SDGs also emphasize “leaving no one behind”, yet many groups that are marginalized or in vulnerable situations continue to face significant barriers and discrimination in accessing opportunities and services. The notion of “sustainable development for all” must not be mere rhetoric, but a guiding principle that underpins all public policy. Intersectional approaches are needed. Young women are still too often disproportionately excluded from education and employment worldwide.

75. With six years to go to achieve the SDGs, we commit to walk the talk on “leaving no one behind”, including by:

- a) Adapting education and employment support services to meet the needs of all segments of society, genders and personal abilities. Enhancing public engagement with constituents to identify gaps and address the needs of all segments in society, including proactively reaching out to those in often overlooked places, such as rural areas, people with disabilities, the illiterate, marginalized groups and those facing discrimination.
- b) Strengthening partnerships – both offline and online – with youth grassroots organizations, advisory councils, advocacy groups and student associations to better amplify their voices in our legislatures and policy discourses.
- c) Enhancing inter-parliamentary cooperation and the exchange of good practices to better amplify the voices of marginalized groups and those in vulnerable situations, and ensure that public policies address their needs. Also build inter-parliamentary solidarity for countries in vulnerable situations due to climate change, such as SIDS.

76. We express our thanks to the National Assembly of Armenia for hosting this Tenth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians and for providing the platform to unite young MPs for this common goal.

5. RECOMENDATIONS BY THE KENYA DELEGATION

77. The Kenya Parliament Delegation to the 10th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Global Conference of the Young Parliamentarians, pursuant to Article 7 of the IPU Statutes, urges the National Assembly to Note this Report.