

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



*Paper laid on
the table of the
Senate by Sen.
Lesuada on
3/12/2015
[Signature]*

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

(Third Session)

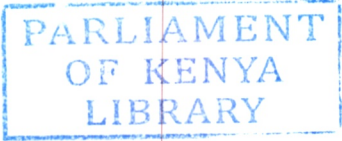


REPORT OF THE IPU GLOBAL CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG
PARLIAMENTARIANS

National Diet of Japan

Tokyo, Japan

27th to 29th May, 2015



*Approved
Mwenda
3/12/15*

Clerks Chambers
Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI

Hon. Speaker November, 2015
*You may approve
for tabling.*
[Signature] 03/12/15

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	i
ABBREVIATIONS	ii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1. BACKGROUND.....	3
2. OPENING SESSION	5
3. INTRODUCTORY SESSION.....	6
(i) Celebrating 20 Years of the World Programme of Action for Youth	6
(ii) 70 th Anniversary of Political Suffrage in Japan: Ensuring Youth participation in politics and the sustainability of society	6
4. YOUTH IN A WORLD OF SOCIO- ECONOMIC CRISIS.....	7
(i) Youth employment, education and skills training	7
(ii) Youth Participation in Politics.....	7
(iii) Youth Friendly Health Policies	8
(iv) Youth and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	8
5. CAN YOUNG PEOPLE ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT THROUGH THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS?	9
(i) The involvement of young people in conflicts: Old and new trends	9
(ii) Youth and Democracy for Peace Building	10
(iii) International Law and the protection of young people	10
(iv) Eliminating all forms of violence against youth, in particular girls and young women.....	11
6. IS IT POSSIBLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO GROW UP IN A CULTURE OF NON-VIOLENCE IN TODAY'S WORLD?.....	12
7. EXCURSION TO KYOTO	13
8. THE YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS' GLOBAL OPINION SUMMIT.....	14
9. CONCLUSION	15
10. RECOMMENDATIONS	16
11. ANNEXES	17

ABBREVIATIONS

IPU:	The Inter Parliamentary Union
WSD:	World Support for Development
UN:	The United Nations
UNDP:	The United Nations Development Program
ILO:	International Labour Organization
UNICEF:	The United Nations Children's Fund
JCCP:	Japan Center for Conflict Prevention
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
ISIS:	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
MP:	Member of Parliament

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hon. Members,

The IPU first marked its commitment to supporting youth participation in politics in the resolution entitled *Youth participation in the democratic process*, adopted at the 122nd IPU Assembly (Bangkok, March-April 2010). In 2013, it established the Forum of Young Parliamentarians to enhance youth participation in parliament and provide a youth perspective to the IPU's work. In October 2014, the IPU organized the Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Geneva on the theme *Taking democracy to task*, offering a unique platform to discuss how to draw young people into the democratic process.

Honourable Members,

The IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians took place from 27th to 29th May, 2015 at the National Diet of Japan Buildings, Tokyo, Japan. The Conference brought together 187 young men and women parliamentarians from 66 countries who gathered in Tokyo, Japan. This Conference was the first to be organized jointly by the IPU and an IPU Member Parliament. The Objective of the Conference was to identify ways of addressing major challenges impacting youth today and devise a roadmap for parliamentary engagement in this endeavour. The Conference also sought to strengthen links between young politicians and encourage devising of new and creative solutions for peace and prosperity

The Conference aimed to build on the success of the 2014 Young Parliamentarians Conference and address other areas in which youth engagement is crucial. Participants recognized that prosperous, peaceful, inclusive and safe societies require the participation and engagement of young people. The average age of the parliamentarians attending the Conference was 35.5 years.

Various resolutions on matters affecting the member States were adopted and recommendations made (See annexed Outcome Document).

The Kenya delegation to this meeting comprised of the following:-

- (i) Sen. Josephine Naisula Lesuuda, M.P
- (ii) Hon. Andrew Anyanga Toboso, M.P.

(iii) Hon. Zuleikha Juma Hassan, M.P.

(iv) Mr. Innocent Mbaya –Clerk Assistant II, Senate

(v) Ms. Anne Shibuko –Clerk Assistant III, National Assembly

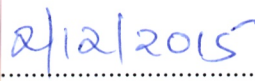
The delegation participated in the deliberations of the Ordinary Session, the sittings of Working Groups and the Young Parliamentarians’ Global Opinion Summit organized by IPU and WSD.

The delegation is grateful to the Speakers of the two Houses for allowing them to attend the Session, for facilitating travel and accommodation and providing logistical and technical support in liaison with the offices of the Clerks from the two Houses.

It is now my pleasant duty, on behalf of the delegation to present and commend this report to the House.

Sen. Lesuuda Naisula, M.P

Sign: 

Date: 

1. BACKGROUND

The Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), established in 1889, is the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue and works for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracies.

To this end, the IPU

- 1) Fosters contacts, co-ordination, and the exchange of experience among parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries;
- 2) Considers questions of international interest and concern and expresses its views on such issues in order to bring about action by parliaments and parliamentarians;
- 3) Contributes to the defence and promotion of human rights an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development;
- 4) Contributes to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.

The IPU supports the efforts of the United Nations, whose objectives it shares, and works in close co-operation with it. The Union also co-operates with regional inter-parliamentary organizations, as well as with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which are motivated by the same ideals. Promoting the concepts of peace and international arbitration, the IPU provided the origins for today's form of institutionalized multilateral co-operation and advocated the establishment of corresponding institutions at the inter-governmental level, which eventually came into being as the United Nations.

The IPU was also instrumental in setting up what is now the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. The IPU has transformed itself from an association of individual parliamentarians into the international organization of the Parliaments of sovereign States. It is a centre for dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy among legislators representing every political system and all the main political leanings in the world, constituting a unique platform for observing political opinions and trends around the world.

The IPU Assembly also has over the years served to provide the backdrop for parliamentary diplomacy and on numerous occasions, when relations between the executive branches of government have reached a stalemate, parliamentarians have managed to negotiate a way out of the impasse.

To achieve the above goals, the IPU organizes conferences at which parliamentarians discuss political, economic, social and cultural issues the results of which are included in resolutions and recommendations for implementation by member parliaments.

IPU statutory Assemblies and specialized meetings serve as a testing ground for new ideas and initiatives leading to important breakthroughs in the search for peace and advancing international co-operation.

The IPU is financed primarily by its members out of public funds. It is a public organization funded in a transparent way by Member Parliaments and Associate Members, whose annual fees are assessed in accordance with a scale of contributions approved by the Governing Council. In addition, a growing volume of financial resources is mobilized through voluntary contributions, most of which are provided by donor governments.

2. OPENING SESSION

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, National Diet of Japan, Mr. Tadamori Oshima officially opened the Session. He welcomed the delegates to the conference which he termed an opportunity to discuss and contribute to peace, prosperity and economy of the world humanity.

In October 2014, the IPU organized the Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Geneva on the theme *Taking democracy to task*, which elicited a heated discussion on Youth and Democracy. It was appropriate that the current Conference had taken the discourse a step further. The theme of this year's Conference **Democracy, Peace and Prosperity** would delve into deeper Social and Economic problems faced by the Youth and propose ways to tackle them.

Having been a Member of Parliament for 32 years, the Speaker had witnessed growth of Legislature from days when superiority systems restricted participation of younger Members in any forums to the present where the older and younger Members had similar platforms to make their mark in regional and global issues.

He concluded by encouraging the young Parliamentarians to support and encourage one another in their representation role, and wished them productivity in their encounters and exchanges throughout the Conference period.

Mr. Saber Chowdhury, President of the IPU welcomed the 200 Young Parliamentarians. With almost half of the world population below 25 years of age, Mr. Chowdhury said it was a commendable step that various countries have been progressively electing younger Parliamentarians in successive elections. He said this would ensure that young people's issues are truly heard and dealt with.

He acknowledged that the Youth have played a great role in advances in humanity over the years using creativity and innovation. He further stated that it was only right that the youth are empowered and given confidence to shape the agenda and drive the process to make sustainable contribution to humanity.

Mr. Chowdhury discouraged against the business as usual way of doing things as it has not borne any fruits over the years.

He opined that the fact that the Conference was being held in Japan would encourage the Youth to emulate the host Country in matters relating to innovation, resilience in the face of natural disasters and an improved economy.

3. INTRODUCTORY SESSION

(i) Celebrating 20 Years of the World Programme of Action for Youth

The United Nations Secretary General's envoy on Youth, Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi through a video message cited absence of meaningful channels at national, regional and global level as the main set back to Youth development. He encouraged universal commitment to values and coordinated response, stressing that the UN had prioritised the Youth Agenda.

Mr. Tetsuo Kondo, Director of UNDP's Japan Representation Office in Tokyo informed Members that since 1889, the IPU agenda has been focus on meaningful Parliamentary Dialogue. The UNDP pillars of transforming development and strengthening Governance and Democracy had led to the partnership with IPU to create a forum for engaging in idea exchange.

He said that the IPU had programs in more than 170 countries and has allocated USD 127M in various programs aimed at promoting Youth strategy such as having a new Constitution (Tunisia), political parties and civic education and participation and leadership of women.

He lauded the support by the Japanese Government as it had been instrumental in generating political goodwill, leveraging space for a wide range of stakeholders to champion for change.

(ii) 70th Anniversary of Political Suffrage in Japan: Ensuring Youth participation in politics and the sustainability of society

In his highlights on the 70th anniversary of political suffrage in Japan, Mr. Hirofumi Takinami, Member of Parliament (Japan) noted as a matter of grave concern that due to harsh socio economic environment, young people world over were losing hope in politics as evidenced by the declining numbers of young people interested in voting or participating in politics.

In a bid to alleviate the situation, the Japanese Government had introduced a Bill in its Parliament seeking to lower the voting age from 20 years to 18 years which has since been passed, created civic awareness in schools and promoted public participation of women in politics and improved impact on policy content.

Mr. Takimani stated that he hoped in future, the President of the Young Parliamentarians Forum would be given a chance to address the Speaker's Forum the same way his counterpart, the President of Women Forum does.

4. YOUTH IN A WORLD OF SOCIO- ECONOMIC CRISIS

(i) Youth employment, education and skills training

Ms. Keiko Kamioka, Director, Office for Japan International Labour Organization (ILO) made a presentation on **Youth employment, education and skills training** underlining the fact that recent trends are pointing at Youth unemployment crisis. She said education and training that meet the demands of the job market is required to beat competition in the saturated job market. Skills mismatch, particularly in Africa had resulted from a situation whereby the youth accept jobs below their qualification level in order to get by. This has led to detachment from labour with global statistics showing that only 25% of employees were on permanent contract, 13% were on temporary contracts thus unable to make long term plans and over 60% were casual employees with no contract whatsoever.

She recommended Macroeconomic policies and strengthening of labour market practices as the prime policy areas for countries to focus on to ease the burden of unemployment on the youth.

(ii) Youth Participation in Politics

In her presentation on **Youth Participation in Politics**, the IPU Youth participation Programme Officer, Ms. Zeina Hilal guided the delegates through statistics on Parliamentarians in various countries based on age and gender. The general trend was the youngest Parliamentarians fell in the age bracket of 21-30 years, while the majority fell in the age bracket of 51-60 years. It was a matter of concern that some countries had no Parliamentarians below 30 years of age. On the flipside, it was a milestone that most women were in the younger age cohort, signifying that it was an emerging trend for women to be elected in politics. It was therefore important to continue encouraging youth participation in democracy and governance to propel the Youth Agenda.

On the same topic, Mr. Kensuke Harada, President, Non- Profit Corporation Youth Create (Japan) gave a background on the rapidly aging society, noting that in Japan, young people were more interested in National elections than in local ones. He advised that governments do not view the importance of young people only during vying for political posts and voting exercise, but also have other opportunities and mechanisms to make them relevant in society.

He dissuaded forcing youth to participate in politics and instead proposed tools and methods suited for young people for campaigns and messages of involvement such as the internet and participation in communal activities.

(iii) Youth Friendly Health Policies

Regarding **Youth Friendly Health Policies**, Dr. Venkatraman Chandra- Mouli, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Scientist, Department of Reproductive Health and Research at the World Health Organization encouraged delegates to make frequent reference to the UN Progress report which highlighted pertinent issues such as Adolescent friendly health laws and policies; and Global strategies on Women and Children Health. Gaining a global perspective on these matters would indeed go a long way in influencing formulation of youth policies, thus shaping the future of a nation.

Ms. Rosaline Smith, Member of Parliament (Sierra Leone) gave the delegates a detailed account of how the Ebola Crisis had affected the Western Africa Region and the unprecedented negative socio economic burden it had imposed on the region.

She expressed her gratitude to all nations that came to Sierra Leone's assistance during the Ebola outbreak. She further stated that the Ebola crisis had revealed weaknesses in the Healthcare system not only in Sierra Leone but globally as well. She attributed the spread of the disease to poor education standards among populations in affected countries as well as cultural practices that resulted to unsafe burial practices. The youth of Sierra Leone were identified as instrumental in aiding the rescue mission by acting as volunteers alongside other professionals such as medical and health practitioners.

Ms. Smith urged the IPU member states and well-wishers to continue supporting the Ebola frontline nations as the impact of the disease on family units and key economic pillars of affected countries was devastating. While West Africa has now been declared Ebola Free, the economies of the affected countries are yet to recover and thus would need some affirmative action such as debt relief to be able to rise again.

(iv) Youth and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Mr. Beniam Gebrezghi, Programme Specialist, Civil Society and Youth Effective Governance Team, UNDP Regional Hub in Bangkok made a presentation on **Youth and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. He started his presentation by informing participants that the world is currently shifting from the Millennium

Development Goals to sustainable Development Goals. With this shift, new elements such as Urbanization, Climate Change and Governance have been incorporated into the SDGs. 17 Goals have been so far accepted and 169 targets approved, while 19 more were being negotiated. As is the phrase *the Devil is in the detail*, the SDG indicators will be translated from Global level to National level.

He encouraged Young Parliamentarians to be keen on **Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.**

Thereafter, the delegates had debates in two working groups with working group A discussing **Enhancing youth participation in politics**, and Working Group B discussing **Addressing socio-economic challenges from a youth perspective**. These two forums gave Members a platform to share best practices from their countries in dealing with their challenges.

5. CAN YOUNG PEOPLE ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT THROUGH THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS?

(i) The involvement of young people in conflicts: Old and new trends

Ms. Wafa Bani Mustafa, Member of Parliament (Jordan) made a presentation on the involvement of young people in conflicts. She highlighted emerging trends of creating unrest and spreading tension. She specifically focused on the new media and expressed concern over the abuse of social media platforms which are now being used to propagate terror and infuse extremism on the young.

Ms. Mustafa made reference to the case of the Jordanian pilot Moaz al-Kasasbeh who was captured and burnt alive by ISIS; an execution that was captured on camera and circulated on various social media platforms. She proposed legislative action by IPU member states to regulate the use of new media to ensure such cases of misuse are eradicated.

Ms. Mustafa further raised concern over the discrimination of Muslims across the world as a result of ISIS activities in the Middle East. She stated that Muslims are the frontline victims of terror with huge populations now being displaced by the heightened terror activities in parts of the Middle East. She said cases of religious and cultural discrimination are vast and need to be dealt with. Ms. Mustafa called for support from IPU member states in ensuring cohesive coexistence of Muslims and people of other cultural and religious backgrounds.

Other trends observed as responsible for entrenchment of religious and ideological extremism amongst modern day young people were unemployment and lack of working opportunities.

(ii) Youth and Democracy for Peace Building

In her presentation on **Youth and Democracy for Peace Building**, Ms. Rumiko Seya, President, Japan Centre for Conflict Prevention (JCCP) mentioned Kenya, South Sudan and Somalia as the countries where the organization is most active. Its initiatives with youth include promoting public values and participation, Gender, children rights and socio cycle problem,

For instance in Kenya, JCC has assisted youth in rebuilding their lives, through counselling and mentoring victims of violence in Internally Displaced Persons Camps after the Post-Election Violence and informal settlements such as Mathare. It has also created early response programs to engage in mediation process before escalation of ethnic wars. Most recently, a program to perform women safety audit in unsafe areas and share the information with the local administration has also been introduced. The organization's priority is motivation no matter how small the initiative, to improve capacity.

In Sri Lanka, the organization had offered support to Internally Displaced Person and support for Landmine clearance. In Cambodia, JCCP offered literacy education to minorities and construction of libraries and schools.

She concluded by stating that Mainstream Youth issues in governance and security, community safety training for Police and Youth was paramount for the success of a society and called for more action in other parts of the world.

(iii) International Law and the protection of young people

Dr. Chris Hirabayashi, Director, of UNICEF Public Partnerships Division, Tokyo Office discussed the topic **International Law and the protection of young people**. He stated that despite 195 Countries having ratified the Convention on Rights of the Child, (1989), 6 out of 10 children globally between 2-14 years of age were subjected to physical abuse, while a third of students are bullied via the internet. This was termed dangerous as exposure to violence can hinder brain development resulting into damaged learning and ability.

He cited an example of the Ugandan U-Report which enabled citizens and Parliamentarians access weekly reports on community development issues, making

data available on real time basis free of charge. Similar systems also assist to track education and health service compliance in the Country.

He highly recommended similar breakdown in barriers communication and public participation in governance in other countries to empower citizens so that their voice matters.

Dr. Hirabayashi challenged IPU member states to ensure that they not only operationalize laws that safeguard the rights of children but also ensure full enjoyment of such rights.

He called upon IPU member states to adopt legislation that clearly condemns violence against children and protects the rights of victims and witnesses. Dr. Hirabayashi also encouraged promotion of public policies and allocation of adequate resources to deal with violence meted on children and the resultant long term effects to the psychological wellbeing of a child.

(iv) Eliminating all forms of violence against youth, in particular girls and young women

Ms. Yoko Hayashi, Chairperson, UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) spoke on the various forms of violence against youth, in particular girls and young women and proposed measures to eradicate such violence. She stated that Gender based violence directed to a woman as a woman or which affects a woman directly can be classified as; violence in a family or community or violence by the State which ought to protect such vulnerable groups.

She cited trafficking, early marriages and attacks by extremists as the emerging forms of violence facing women. The justification of such practices by socio- cultural practices and religious values embedded in society such as honour killings in parts of Asia were the greatest hindrance to overcoming such challenges. She encouraged young parliamentarians to fight such retrogressive practices in their respective communities by revisiting their laws in a comprehensive manner to protect women and ensure full enjoyment of human rights.

The judiciary was identified as a critical component in ensuring justice for victims of violence. Towards this end, states were encouraged to make necessary reforms to increase the competence of the Judiciary in order to ensure perpetrators of gender based violence are brought to book.

Ms. Hayashi also called on IPU member states to establish elaborate Psycho-Social support mechanisms for victims of gender based violence. She stated that this was important in re-integrating victims into the society.

Thereafter, participants were put into two working groups with working group **A** discussing; **Countering young people's engagement in violence and conflict**, and Working Group **B** discussing; **Better involving young people in peace building**. Participants exchanged views on their experiences and later converged at a joint plenary sitting to cross share the outcome of the deliberations of the two groups.

6. IS IT POSSIBLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO GROW UP IN A CULTURE OF NON-VIOLENCE IN TODAY'S WORLD?

Participants engaged in an open debate regarding the possibility of young people growing up in a culture of non-violence in today's world. In his opening remarks, the session Chair Mr. Arata Takebe (Member of Parliament for Japan) stated that violence is unfortunately a part of the modern world and all measures must be taken to stem the trend.

He cited technological advancements especially in information technology as a breeding ground of violence as information both bad and good including radicalization can all be accessed at the touch of a button through mobile phones and tablets.

Participants spoke in turns about experiences in their own countries is as far as the matter was concerned. The representative of Nigeria Mr. Raphael Igbokwe, MP spoke about the April 2014 kidnap of 219 Chibok High school girls by Boko Haram militia stating that these are modern day realities of the impact of violence on young people.

He said a number of the kidnapped girls have since been rescued although many of them remain in the hands of the Boko Haram Militia. Mr. Igbokwe stated that As a result of the Kidnap the Nigerian Government had boosted security in Chibok, beefed up the budget for the military to equip it adequately so as to deal with the threat posed by insecurity, built more schools in affected areas and established the Boko Haram Victims Help fund to assist victims of the Boko Haram.

The representative of Pakistan spoke about the December 2014 attack on an Army School in the North Western Pakistan City of Peshawar in which 132 school children were killed and many more injured by gunmen affiliated to the Taliban terror group.

As a result of the attack, Pakistan Government adopted a National action plan which among others included, raising of perimeter walls around schools, protective training of teachers, registration of mobile phones and increased surveillance on communications including social media to arrest cases of extremism and violence early.

Kenya on its part mentioned the successes of the National Cohesion and integration act (2008) in ensuring Kenya heals after the 2007/2008 post-election violence. Further the contribution of the law in mitigating future violence and building a cohesive society was highlighted.

Participants were of the opinion that there needs to be a change of mind set amongst the leadership of IPU member states to ensure the culture of violence is stemmed as studies have shown that children who witness violence at home will perpetrate violence outside the house. Therefore members were urged to talk about violence and ways to stop it as peace must start from home. Members were urged to come up with that influence good culture and respect and ensure that Laws passed must translate to reality. Legislation to control the use of internet in a more responsible manner was advocated for with member, consequently member states were urged to rethink their current cyber laws. Equality and fairness was identified as an important component of encouraging peaceful co-existence.

7. EXCURSION TO KYOTO

The delegates left for Kyoto, 514 km south of Tokyo where they spent the day touring various sites. Kyoto served as Japan's capital and the emperor's residence from 794 until 1868. It is now the country's seventh largest city with a population of 1.4 million people and a modern face. The city is filled with thousands of classical Buddhist temples, as well as gardens, imperial palaces, Shinto shrines and traditional wooden houses. It's also known for formal traditions such as *kaiseki* dining, consisting of multiple courses of precise dishes, and *Geisha* female entertainers often found in the Gion district.

Over the centuries, Kyoto was destroyed by many wars and fires, but due to its historic value, the city was dropped from the list of target cities for the atomic bomb and spared from air raids during World War II. Countless temples, shrines and other historically priceless structures survive in the city today.

The bus tour through the city revealed that the city was a religious centre with Buddhist Temples and *Shinto* shrines appearing on every other street. These

fascinatingly old and architecturally delightful religious structures emblemize Japan's history and culture. The *Shinto* shrines represent Japan's indigenous, animistic religion. Many date back well over 1,000 years and are dedicated to local natural wonders or protective gods. India-originated Buddhism was introduced to Japan from China through Korea in the sixth Century A.D and comprises various denominations. Because of their Chinese and Korean origins, temples tend to be more ornate and decorative than the more subdued shrines.

The City is also a renown educational centre, hosting universities such as Kyoto University, which has produced seven Nobel Prizes recipients.

Kyoto, as the capital of Japan for over 1200 years, was the kitchen of the Imperial Court. Top-ranking nobles inherited a multitude of refined cuisines, including specialties unique to Kyoto such as elegant "Kyo-kaiseki-ryori," vegetarian-friendly "Shojin-ryori", and "Obanzai" for everyday dining. Today, Kyoto remains the home of traditional Japanese cuisine, and there are many specialty eateries for sushi, tempura, soba, and ramen. It was the efforts of Kyoto chefs that resulted in "Washoku," or Japanese cuisine, being recognized as an intangible heritage by UNESCO in 2013. Kyoto is also famous throughout Japan for traditional Japanese sweets, some of which are used in the Japanese tea ceremony (the tea also comes from Kyoto). Delegates got a chance to sample the traditional Japanese meal at the Shozan Resort.

The highlight of the excursion was the Temple of the Golden Pavillion (Kinkakuji), a famous structure dating from the Muromachi Period (1336-1573) and was listed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1994.

8. THE YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS' GLOBAL OPINION SUMMIT

Bringing a youth perspective to development cooperation

The summit was jointly organized by the IPU and Worldwide Support for Development (WSD), Japanese non-profit organization engaged in international and humanitarian actions and projects to strengthen global governance and society under the leadership of the eminent philanthropist Dr. Haruhisa Handa. The organization has been providing support to the IPU since 2013.

The IPU-WSD meeting was a platform for young politicians to reflect on how development cooperation can better respond to young people's needs. As representatives of their communities, the Young Parliamentarians were well placed to help shape more effective partnerships for development to meet the challenges

that cut across society such as poverty, discrimination, climate change, access to health, conflict or barriers to education and employment.

The young MPs highlighted the need to focus development cooperation on people, and in particular on young people's specific interests, to create positive long-term outcomes. They stressed that it was critical to consult young people on development projects and called attention to the need for development cooperation to empower young people through investment in training, job creation, inclusive processes and responsive programmes.

Education was identified as one of the key areas in need of greater investment, including tertiary education and training in skills relevant to the job market. Other priority areas included increasing youth opportunities in the agricultural sector, and investing more in Information and Computer Technology (ICT) to boost knowledge, innovation and web entrepreneurship opportunities. The MPs also called for development cooperation to encompass enhancing young people's engagement in politics and democracy.

Among those who attended the Summit were Dr Haruhisa Handa, Chairman of WSD, IPU President Saber Chowdhury, IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong, and Japanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Minoru Kiuchi, about 50 young MPs also had an opportunity to learn more about Japanese international cooperation, which aims to focus more on peace-building, inclusiveness, environmental sustainability and resilience. The afternoon sessions of the event were opened to the Japanese public and about 1,000 people attended.

The Summit offered a platform for young politicians, as representatives of their communities, to illustrate how well-placed they are to help shape more effective partnerships to tackle the many challenges societies face today, such as poverty, migration, discrimination, climate change, access to health, conflict, as well as barriers to education and employment.

9. CONCLUSION

The conference was important in highlighting challenges that hinder effective participation of Youth in politics and governance across IPU member states. The conference was further integral in strengthening links between young legislators from around the globe and devising new and creative solutions for peace and prosperity around the world. This was particularly important as young people are bearing the brunt of the socio-economic crisis and are the primary victims of the violence and conflicts that threaten the present and the future of their societies.

The resolutions of the conference would therefore act as a good background in;

- i) Informing future policies and legislations in IPU member states including Kenya to ensure the necessary ground for effective participation of the Youth in politics is established;
- ii) improving the standards and quality of education to meet the demands of a globalized community;
- iii) encouraging entrepreneurship and improving the quality of employment offered to the Youth;
- iv) adoption of better anti-radicalization and anti-hate speech framework; and
- v) discouraging the Youth from manipulation for political gains.

All participants were in agreement that all societies need the power of youth to achieve a better future and young parliamentarians, and resolved to work to implement the different measures agreed upon during the conference and to mainstream a youth perspective in the work of their respective parliaments, including through the establishment of youth caucuses.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

Annexed is the outcome document detailing the resolutions of the conference.

11. ANNEXES

Annex I: Outcome Document

...END...



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone



IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Tokyo

Democracy, Peace and Prosperity

National Diet of Japan, Tokyo, 27 and 28 May 2015

Outcome Document

Co-Rapporteurs: Ms. T.M. Dziva, Member of Parliament (Zimbabwe), member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU and Mr. H. Takinami, Member of Parliament (Japan)

On 27 and 28 May 2015, 187 young men and women parliamentarians from 66 countries gathered in Tokyo, Japan, for the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians. This Conference was the first to be organized jointly by the IPU and an IPU Member Parliament. The purpose of the Conference was to identify ways of addressing major challenges impacting youth today and devise a roadmap for parliamentary engagement in this endeavour. The average age of the parliamentarians attending the Conference was 35.5 years. In our deliberations, we were joined by the Presiding Officers of both Houses of the National Diet of Japan, Mr. Tadamori Oshima and Mr. Masaaki Yamazaki, as well as the IPU President, Mr. Saber Chowdhury and the IPU Secretary General, Mr. Martin Chungong. A team of experts from specialized United Nations agencies and civil society organizations also took part in the two-day event.

We wish to warmly thank the IPU and the National Diet of Japan for convening such a significant event. We believe that the Conference has succeeded in taking us one step closer to achieving our goal of addressing the obstacles to youth participation and self-realization in a peaceful, safe and youth-friendly socio-economic environment. It has also fulfilled its purpose as a youth-led political platform of networking and debate.

The previous IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, held in Geneva in October 2014, focused specifically on youth participation in politics. The Geneva Conference underscored the need for young people to participate actively in politics and recommended a series of robust measures to promote such participation through the democratic process.

This Conference in Tokyo has focused on *Democracy, Peace and Prosperity*. It was held for the dual purpose of further strengthening links between young legislators from around the globe and devising new and creative solutions for peace and prosperity in a world where young people are bearing the brunt of the socio-economic crisis and are the primary victims of the violence and conflicts that threaten the present and the future of their societies.

In our deliberations, we stress that democracy, peace and prosperity are interlinked. Through unrest, disillusionment, apathy or political disengagement, young people are demonstrating their aspiration to democratic, peaceful and prosperous societies. We have confirmed that it is critical to involve youth as key stakeholders and decision-makers. We firmly believe that there can be no strong democracy, no lasting peace and no sustainable prosperity without the contribution of young people, who represent a major segment of the population in many countries.

All societies need the power of youth to achieve a better future. Young people have a long life ahead of them and must consider the world from a long-term perspective. This means that youth empowerment can enhance the sustainability of our communities and our world.

We emphasize the need for democracy to be more representative of young people. We reiterate the recommendations previously made in Geneva to enhance youth participation in politics, namely to:

- Adopt and implement youth quotas;
- Lower the voting age and align the age of eligibility to run for office with the age of eligibility to vote;
- Make young people part and parcel of all political decision-making processes at the legislative and the governmental levels, as well as at the national and local levels;
- Introduce a paradigm shift in politics, including through ICTs, to make politics more amenable to young people's contributions;
- Start youth empowerment in politics in the early years of schooling, with the requisite adaptation of school curricula;
- Empower women in politics as young women face double discrimination based on gender and age; and
- Continue the global youth-led platforms spearheaded by the IPU, such as the permanent Forum of Young Parliamentarians and the annual Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians.

We reaffirm that prosperity and well-being should be the main objectives of socio-economic policies. Young people have to be recognized, respected and included as an integral part of development and decision-making. We see democracy, human rights, gender equality, social equity and justice as key ingredients of prosperity.

We are concerned by the high rates of youth unemployment and the emerging trend of the educated unemployed. Some of us referred to the youth unemployment crisis as an "unemployment bomb" about to explode anytime and expected to result in social unrest and violence.

We expressed deep concern over the fact that many young people are neither in employment nor in education. Young people are also overrepresented in temporary work as part-time and precarious jobs are on the rise. Young women are doubly disadvantaged in terms of access to the youth labour market and the pay gap. The disproportionately high percentage of young people aspiring to migration and the attendant loss of life among them are particularly worrying. The main cause of migration among this population group is sheer desperation, with young people willing to go to any length to migrate to what they perceive to be greener pastures.

We often hear that the world is committed to addressing the needs and interests of youth and to tackling the challenges they face. As young parliamentarians, we now call upon governments, international organizations and other stakeholders to take action on the following:

- Education remains a key goal and a crucial sector even if it does not offer all opportunities to access the job market. We recommend that education be free, compulsory and better adapted to the needs of the job market. Skills development needs to be expanded and adapted constantly to evolving employment opportunities.
- We call for the implementation of youth-empowerment initiatives in business and gender equality in the job market.
- Entrepreneurship should be promoted, including by allocating funds and facilitating access to loans for young entrepreneurs. We also recommend the provision of greater support to sectors that need to be sustained by young people, such as agriculture.

The principle of equality needs to be better applied to youth employment policies and legislation. We wish to draw particular attention to the obligation to promote and respect the specific needs and rights of young migrant workers and first-time workers.

- Regional and international cooperation are needed to better regulate the job market and to ensure that education matches in practical terms the needs of the current job market at the local, regional and international levels .
- We are witnessing high rates of teenage pregnancies in many regions, road traffic-related deaths and injuries and other behaviours that impact on young people's health. We recommend that health policies become adolescent-friendly by including objectives and programmes to facilitate information and skills-development, promote a safe environment for young people and provide them with health and counselling services. Such policies also need to focus more on youth and require accurate data and sound evidence. We have taken note of the ongoing consultative process aimed at renewing the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health and we welcome the opportunity that the Strategy offers to draw greater international attention to adolescent health.

We have also taken note of a certain number of ongoing global processes for the design of the new post 2015 development agenda. These include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global pact on climate change and the agreement on Financing for Development. We undertake to work in our parliaments for the outcomes of all these processes to reflect the needs of the people, especially youth. We will urge our national authorities to ensure that appropriate language is included in these agreements recognizing the role of parliaments and the IPU in the implementation of the new development agenda.

In this respect, we welcome the inclusion in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction of provisions relating to the role of parliament and the IPU. We pledge to work with our parliaments and governments to ensure to promote a robust parliamentary contribution to these processes.

We stress that young people should not be seen as perpetrators of violence and conflict although many are recruited by violent extremist groups. We affirm that young people are prone to and victims of violence and conflict, including armed conflict. Ultimately, they should be protected. We are dedicated to promoting greater involvement of young people in proactive peacebuilding. We believe that inclusive, tolerant societies and the inculcation of a culture of peace can contribute to this undertaking.

We believe that education and employment, youth engagement in politics and youth involvement and leadership in community forums, civil society organizations, youth associations, sports and arts can contribute to the general welfare of society and are key to halting the involvement of young people in violence and conflict.

We also believe that the legislative and policy response to the involvement of young people in violence and conflict should not be reduced to merely a security and military response. We call upon parliaments to adopt and implement United Nations Security Council resolutions 1624 on Prohibition of incitement to commit terrorist acts, 1373 on Creation of Counterterrorism Committee and 1325 on Women, peace and security.

We are convinced that the anti-radicalization response should be transformed into a comprehensive framework of action based on respect for the human rights of young people, women and children, fundamental freedoms and socio-economic development. This should include:

- Legislation, policy and funds to guarantee compulsory and free education that encompasses programmes to combat violence and manage conflict;

- Legislation to criminalize hate speech;
- National and social cohesion;
- Youth policies that include violence- and conflict-related programmes and projects that are sufficiently resourced;
- Appropriate measures, including quotas, to promote equal opportunities in the job market;
- Involvement of young people in all consultations, debates and decisions related to counter-terrorism and addressing violence and conflict;
- Removing the stigma attached to victims of violence by providing medical and social care;
- Challenging gender norms and enacting legislation to protect young people from violence, in particular violence against young women and girls;
- Ending the alienation of young people, including by creating targeted opportunities for them to contribute to campaigns, programmes and projects at the community level;
- Supporting youth access to sports and arts; and
- Without prejudice to freedom of information, ensuring that the media, and especially social media, do not serve as vehicles for conveying hate messages.

As young parliamentarians, we are committed to ending the manipulation of young people for political gain. We want to work with the older generation to build societies that offer equal opportunities and greater justice for young people.

We urge the United Nations to consider including young people in peacebuilding missions. We also urge our national authorities to invest more in young people's participation in peacebuilding, including by reducing military budgets. We are committed to upholding the "Do no harm" principle, which means ensuring that young people's participation in peace processes does not in fact end up aggravating the situation.

We stress the need for youth policies to be established in consultation with young people through various channels that would facilitate the involvement of various groups of young people. Where such policies already exist, we commit to working for their review. Where they do not exist, we encourage our national authorities to establish such policies. We urge the IPU to gather these policies, disseminate them widely and to undertake comparative research to guide policy orientation.

All societies need the power of youth to achieve a better future and we, as young parliamentarians, will work to implement the different measures we are calling for in this document and to mainstream a youth perspective in the work of our respective parliaments, including through the establishment of youth caucuses.

We request the support of the IPU in:

- *Continuing to organize annual conferences for young parliamentarians, such as this one, since they provide both a training opportunity for young parliamentarians and a global forum for taking positions on youth issues;*
- *Organizing regional or international thematic workshops to ensure ongoing discussion between young parliamentarians;*

- *Holding workshops for young parliamentarians, young leaders from the business world and entrepreneurs in order to gain a better understanding of opportunities and challenges facing youth in business and young entrepreneurs and devise targeted solutions;*
- *Functioning as a global youth political observatory and, to that end, continuing to gather information on youth participation in parliament;*
- *Conducting in-depth studies on youth involvement in various regions;*
- *Providing tools that would inform youth-related policy orientation; and*
- *Continuing to encourage young people's involvement in IPU bodies and, by so doing, continuing to set an example of political integration;*

We would like to express our gratitude to the National Diet of Japan and the IPU for having afforded us the opportunity to address such major issues on a unique youth-led global platform of parliamentarians.

We look forward to meeting again in 2016 to discuss further ways and means of improving the lives of young people globally. The delegation of Zambia has extended an invitation to the IPU to organize the 2016 Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Zambia.