



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.



To: Presidents of IPU Groups

Geneva, 21 August 2017

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to invite your Parliament to take part in the Regional Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of Africa, to be held on 27 and 28 September 2017 in Abuja, Nigeria. The theme of the Meeting is: *Empowering youth: Enhancing political participation for more inclusive and peaceful societies*. It is being jointly organized by the Parliament of Nigeria and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Today's youth have come of age in an environment of unprecedented potential for their empowerment and engagement in politics. They live in an interconnected world transformed by technological advances. This gives them the opportunity to be part of decision-making within and beyond the communities in which they live. However, the majority of young people have yet to be meaningfully engaged in the processes and institutions responsible for progressing their own development. At a time when the world youth population is bigger than ever before, IPU research has revealed that only 1.9 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide are under 30. In Africa, this proportion is even lower.

For decision-making to be responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative, it requires strong participation of all people, including youth. The risks of not doing so can lead to disillusionment and a lack of confidence in politics, posing a threat to the future of democracy. In some places, this can even contribute to an environment ripe for radicalization and violent extremism.

As representatives of the people, and as political decision-makers with legislative and oversight powers, young parliamentarians are uniquely placed to lead the way so that inclusive and peaceful societies become a reality for all. The Regional Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of Africa will be a crucial platform for young parliamentarians to discuss matters of common concern. The meeting will give participants opportunities to showcase concrete ideas and initiatives on good parliamentary practices to enhance youth participation. It will also be a rallying call for young parliamentarians to unite and work together across borders around common issues of concern, such as prevention of violent extremism.

We are pleased to invite you to send a delegation of up to four of your young MPs (age limit of 45 years) to attend the meeting. In the interest of a balanced range of views, we encourage you to send a gender-balanced delegation. We also strongly encourage you to include the youngest members of your parliament in the delegation.

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Please find enclosed a registration form. A more detailed information note and a preliminary agenda will be sent to you in due course.

We would be grateful if you could send your completed registration forms to [postbox@ipu.org](mailto:postbox@ipu.org) by 13 September 2017.

We look forward to hearing from you and to the pleasure of welcoming the young parliamentarians to Abuja.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Chungong  
Secretary General  
Inter-Parliamentary Union



Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara  
Speaker  
House of Representatives



Sen. Bukola Saraki  
President  
Senate