



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



Parliament of Sri Lanka



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

To: Presidents of IPU Groups

Geneva, 3 March 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 the Asia-Pacific. The theme of the Meeting is *the role of young parliamentarians in advancing inclusive and peaceful societies and combating violent extremism*. The IPU, the Parliament of Sri Lanka and the United Nations Development Programme are jointly organizing the event. It will take place on 25 and 26 April 2017 at Hotel Hilton in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Today's youth have come of age in an environment of unprecedented potential for their empowerment and engagement. They live in an interconnected world transformed by technological advances. This gives them the opportunity to be part of a transformation 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. IPU research has revealed that only 1.9 per cent of the world's parliamentarians are aged under 30, whereas half of the world's population is under that age. This is particularly critical in Asia, where 40 per cent of the population was less than 25 years of age in 2015.

Empowering youth in the prevention of extremism and radicalization is particularly important in Asia, which has experienced more conflicts than any other region in the world. Young people should be provided with platforms to engage in local, regional and national social inclusion initiatives. That will offer them meaningful avenues to shape a peaceful future for their countries and regions. As representatives of the people, and as political decision-makers with legislative and oversight powers, young parliamentarians are uniquely placed to lead the way and ensure that sustainable peace and security become a reality for all.

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The Regional Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific will be a crucial platform from which to identify how to prevent violent extremism. The Meeting will give participants opportunities to showcase concrete ideas and initiatives. It will be a rallying call for young parliamentarians to unite and work together across borders.

We are pleased to invite you to send a gender-balanced delegation of up to four of your youngest MPs (age limit of 45 years) to attend the Regional Meeting.

We enclose a practical information note, registration form, and hotel and travel form. A preliminary agenda will be sent to you in due course.

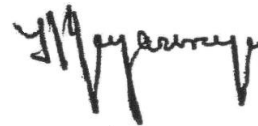
We would be grateful if you could send your completed forms to postbox@ipu.org by 5 April 2017.

We look forward to hearing from you and to welcoming the young parliamentarians in Colombo.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Chungong
Secretary-General
Inter-Parliamentary Union



Karu Jayasuriya
Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka