



INTER PARES
Parliaments in Partnership
EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments



Implemented by
International IDEA



World Forum
Democracy

World Forum for Democracy Satellite event

“PARLIAMENTS, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND INTERGENERATIONAL JUSTICE”

co-organised by INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership – EU Global Project
to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments, International IDEA and the Council of Europe

**6 October 2021,
15:00 – 16:30 CEST**

Satellite Event of World Forum for Democracy:

Parliaments, Climate Change, and Intergenerational Justice

Co-organised by INTER PARES, International IDEA and Council of Europe

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE & AGENDA

Wednesday, 6 October 2021

15:00 – 16:30 CEST (Brussels times)

Evidence keeps mounting of the devastating impact of climate change. The August 2021 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns humanity that climate change is intensifying and that the impacts are being seen all around us and will only get worse unless serious actions are taken to limit and reverse our damage to the planet’s climate.

While climate change affects everyone, its devastating impacts are felt more severely by some regions and populations than others. Too often, those worst affected are those with the least voice and power to make change. Island countries, those affected by desertification, and vulnerable to extreme weather phenomena are often the poorest and most marginalized nations with little voice in international fora. There’s also inter-generational inequity. Obviously, with a rapidly worsening climate change outlook, young people and future generations will be continue to face growing threats to well-being and even survival. However, structurally, representative democracy represents those who currently vote. Not only does this of course exclude those under the voting age and future generations, it also typically marginalizes even young people of voting age who are badly underrepresented in parliaments and other elected institutions where decisions about how to address climate are made.

In this disturbing context, young people have taken the lead in insisting that our elected representatives do much more to come up with and implement real actions to limit climate damage and bring our planet back from the brink. Youth movements like the climate strike movement have highlighted the crisis and forced climate change to the top of the policy agenda around the world.

Nevertheless, the brave campaigning by so many young people does not impact the structural exclusion of young people’s voices in democratic decision-making. As soon as movements naturally subside, the voice and impact of youth concerns – whether on climate or indeed any other issue – risks again being marginalized, with potential devastating impacts for life on this planet.

In this interactive seminar we will explore the question of Parliaments, Climate Change, and Intergenerational Justice from diverse perspectives. Our focus on parliaments underlines that they are the unique institution that engages citizens in the formal governance process in representative democracy, responsible for legislation, oversight of the executive, and voting the budget. Parliaments are at the heart of strategies to enhance inter-generational democracy.

The seminar will begin with brief presentations from leading activists and experts in the fields of parliaments, climate change, and youth democratic engagement. Then the session will be opened to participants to share their perspectives and propose practical solutions.

15:00 -15:10	<p style="text-align: center;">OPENING REMARKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary-General, International IDEA ○ Claudia Luciani, Director of the Human Dignity, Equality and Governance Directorate, Council of Europe
15:10-15:20	<p style="text-align: center;">KEYNOTE PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Michael Rose, Post-doctoral Research Associate, Research group Governance, Participation & Sustainability, Leuphana University
15:20-16:20	<p style="text-align: center;">DISCUSSION PANEL</p> <p><i>Moderator: Sarah Diedro, Communications Strategist, World Forum for Democracy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TBC Abdulla Aslanov, Member of Parliament, Oliy Majlis, Uzbekistan ○ Dayana Blanco Quiroga, Young Delegate, World Forum for Democracy & Activist for climate change and women indigenous rights, Bolivia ○ Anna Luhrmann, Member of Parliament, German Bundestag ○ Tommy Peto, Expert on youth voting, Oxford University ○ Michael Rose, Post-doctoral Research Associate, Research group Governance, Participation & Sustainability, Leuphana University ○ Steven Setiawan, Young Delegate, World Forum for Democracy & Representative of Indonesia for Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition, Indonesia <p style="text-align: center;">Q&A</p>
16:20-16:30	<p style="text-align: center;">CLOSING REMARKS (TBC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ INTER PARES Youth Working Group Member