



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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**Office of the  
Secretary General**

Mr. Melvin Bouva  
Member of the Board of IPU Forum of  
Young Parliamentarians  
PARAMARIBO  
Suriname

Geneva, 2 May 2017

Dear Mr. Bouva,

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on your election as Member of the Board of the IPU's Forum of Young Parliamentarians representing the GRULAC. I wish you every success as you carry out the important responsibilities of this office and trust that your Parliament will fully support you.

In light of the daunting challenges facing our countries and communities today, we are deeply convinced of the importance of parliamentary engagement of young people. I am confident that, with your commitment, both the Board and the Forum will continue actively to contribute a youth perspective to the work of the IPU, enhance youth participation in national parliaments and raise the influence of young parliamentarians.

This year we will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Democracy adopted by our member Parliaments in Cairo in September 1997. We see this as a significant opportunity for young parliamentarians all around the world to reconfirm their commitment and mobilize their action to protect and promote democracy. Young parliamentarians are also key actors in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and their promise to deliver fair, equitable and sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

The IPU is taking the lead in providing platforms to bring together young parliamentarians, empower them and facilitate networking and cooperation. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians is one such key platform. It meets at each IPU Assembly and its next meeting will take place at the 137<sup>th</sup> Assembly in St. Petersburg. The IPU annual Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians will take place this year in Ottawa (Canada) on 17 and 18 November and will be hosted by the Parliament of Canada. At the regional level, the IPU and the Parliament of Nigeria will host a Regional Meeting of Young Parliamentarians in July 2017. I hope that you will be able to attend all these important youth activities of the IPU in your capacity as Member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. Your Parliament will receive the related invitations in due course.

In the meantime I invite you to send us a brief profile and a high resolution photo of you to be posted on the IPU website at your earliest convenience.

Once again, I extend to you my sincere congratulations and very best wishes for success.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong  
Secretary General

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