



**THE 44TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
5-11 AUGUST 2023
Jakarta, Indonesia**

Responsive Parliaments for a Stable and Prosperous ASEAN

(Res. 44GA/2023/YPA/02)

**RESOLUTION ON
ADVANCING THE ROLE OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS
IN GOVERNANCE**

Sponsored by Malaysia

The Forty-fourth AIPA General Assembly:

Recalling the rich history of AIPA's engagement with youth empowerment and representation through various resolutions, namely, the "*Resolution on the Engagement of Young Parliamentarians of AIPA in the ASEAN Community Building*" (RES.41GA/2020/Org/06) and various Resolutions on the ASEAN Programme on Youth and Young Political Leaders (RES.6GA/1983/Soc/07, RES.08GA/1985/Soc/02, RES.11GA/1990/Soc/09, RES.9GA/1988/Soc/02) which underscores the vital contribution of young voices in policymaking processes, fostering innovative and responsive governance;

Noting that the age group of under 45 is more than half of the ASEAN population, but is represented by only a small fraction of regional parliamentarians;

Reflecting on global strides to revitalize parliaments and democracy through youth representation and the pivotal role of young parliamentarians in forging dynamic and responsive governments, it is timely to strengthen AIPA Member States' commitment to intensify youth leadership into parliamentary decision-making processes, thereby enabling their more substantial contributions, fostering a more inclusive and responsive governance which drives meaningful progress on youth-related issues and priorities, as well as echoing the spirit of youth as future leaders, change makers and influencers of the region;

Acknowledging the crucial position and role of young parliamentarians in addressing contemporary challenges, strengthening democratic governance, and managing to thrive in a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) world;

Recognizing that young parliamentarians' enthusiasm and innovative thinking as significant keys in adapting to evolving political landscape and forging a stronger and more resilient ASEAN Community;

Noting further the initiatives of the ASEAN Youth Organization as a platform to gather young activist, peace builder and leaders across the globe.

Hereby Resolves to:

Urge the AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen the institutional capacity of young parliamentarians by providing necessary resources, support, research assistance, and training, as well as fostering stronger collaboration with external partners to support capacity building endeavors thereby enabling them to participate effectively in legislative and governance processes;

Recommend AIPA Member Parliaments to encourage an increased representation of young parliamentarians in all Parliamentary Committees within the next 10 years, to ensure that youth perspectives are integrated into key policy discussions and decisions;

Encourage the AIPA Member Parliaments to consider providing opportunities for young parliamentarians to hold key role within the next 10 years, allowing for a more significant presence of youth as decision-makers, while taking into account the diversity of parliamentary systems and practices of each country;

Encourage the establishment of Youth Caucuses or Committees within each AIPA Member Parliament, comprising young parliamentarians from diverse political backgrounds, to amplify youth voices and foster active participation in legislative and decision-making processes at both regional and national levels to intensify youth leadership development that echoes the spirit of youth as future leaders, change-makers and influencers of the region;

Support the AIPA Member Parliaments to endorse initiatives that augment youth participation in governance, mirror global efforts, and encourage respective Parliaments to regularly review their practices and legislation and dismantle barriers that hinder the involvement of young parliamentarians;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to proactively engage the youth, particularly through social media and other digital platforms, that offer unique opportunities for public outreach, policy dialogue, and mobilization, including fostering youth-mainstreaming in legislative and governance processes;

Urge the AIPA Member Parliaments to support the sustainable development of the most suitable signature programmes of the ASEAN Youth Organization fostering structural institutionalization that may lead to the establishment of the ASEAN Youth Parliament, to enhance and empower youth participation in legislative and governance processes.

Adopted on the ninth day of August 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia.



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

**RESOLUTION ON ADVANCING THE ROLE OF YOUNG
PARLIAMENTARIANS IN GOVERNANCE**

Given that over half of the ASEAN population is under 30, their representation in decision-making roles is both demographically imperative and necessary for a more balanced, responsive, and future-oriented governance. Despite demonstrating significant capabilities and potential, young parliamentarians are still underrepresented in regional legislative bodies. Their marginalization indicates a gap in governance structures that needs to be addressed to create more balanced and responsive parliaments.

As the global population ages, younger generations will eventually need to take on leadership roles. By involving them in governance early, we can ensure a smoother demographic transition and provide them with the experience and knowledge they will need to lead effectively. The AIPA Young Parliamentarians (AIPA-YP), a cadre of young leaders, exemplify youth inclusion and demonstrate young voices' significant role and relevance in shaping sociopolitical landscapes. Nevertheless, their presence is still far from being mainstream, and much remains to be done to incorporate youth perspectives in all aspects of governance adequately, a concept we refer to as 'youth-mainstreaming'.

The proposed resolution primarily encourages Member Parliaments to provide young parliamentarians with the resources, research assistance, training, and platforms necessary for effective national policymaking. Bold measures are proposed to ensure that youth perspectives are integrated into key policy discussions and decision-making processes at the highest levels of governance. This includes insisting upon a minimum of 30% representation of young parliamentarians in all Select Committees; calling for at least 30% of the Chairs of these Committees to be young parliamentarians; and demanding that at least a Deputy Speaker role be assigned to a young parliamentarian in each respective Parliament.

Existing initiatives under the ASEAN Youth Organization (AYO) have proven effective in involving youth in addressing regional matters. Furthermore, the resolution encourages Member Parliaments to proactively engage with young constituents, particularly through digital platforms, which offer unique opportunities for public

outreach, policy dialogue, and mobilization. The goal is to foster youth-mainstreaming in legislative and governance processes and to institutionalize youth participation in structures such as Youth Parliament, ideally establishing ASEAN Youth Parliament.

In essence, this resolution is a call to action for AIPA and its Member Parliaments to empower the next generation of leaders, recognizing and leveraging the potential of youth to forge a more dynamic, inclusive, and resilient ASEAN community. It envisions an ASEAN where young parliamentarians play an active role in governance, where their voices are not merely heard but respected and incorporated into the policy-making process.

In conclusion, "Advancing the Role of Young Parliamentarians in Governance," embodies the spirit of the 44th AIPA General Assembly's theme, "Responsive Parliaments for a Stable and Prosperous ASEAN," and sets a direction for a future where responsiveness and stability are achieved through proactive youth engagement and successful 'youth-mainstreaming'. It is an imperative step towards a future that is not only prosperous and stable but also inclusive and responsive to the needs and aspirations of its youthful populace.