



## Inter Party Youth Communique 2021.

### Key message:

### **Demanding for increased young women's participation in political processes of Uganda in order to attain gender justice**

We, the Youth Leaders from the different political parties forming the Inter party Youth platform ( IYOP) that includes; the Conservative Party (CP), Democratic Party (DP) Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), Justice Forum (JEEMA), National Resistance Movement (NRM), People's Progressive Party (PPP), Uganda Federal Alliance (UFA) and Uganda People's Congress (UPC) who participated in the IYOP Steering and Summit committees' dialogue in partnership with Akina Mama wa Afrika ( AMwA) on 4<sup>th</sup> , November 2021 at Nyumbani Hotel Kampala aimed at promoting and strengthening female youth participation in politics , here today reaffirm our commitment to defend women's rights in the political processes of the Republic of Uganda and call upon all key political actors to account to the civil and political rights of the women of Uganda.

According to the latest IPU report on Youth Participation in National Parliaments, with 50 per cent of the world's population under 30, the report highlights a sizeable deficit in the political representation of young people worldwide. Uganda is one of the countries with the youngest population in the World. As of 2015, Uganda was second to Niger, among countries in the world with the youngest population with a median age of 15.9. Moreover, the latest population census 2014 places 78% of the total population under the age of 35 years, and 20.6% of the population between 15 and 24 years. In terms of electoral input, the youth contributed nearly half of the registered voters with approximately 6.4 million youth (18—30 years). However, the eminence of youth participation in Uganda's political processes remains a major contest. Even with their numerical strength, the youth in Uganda still face challenges in participating meaningfully in the politics of the country.

A fundamental principle of democracy is that political systems should mirror society as a whole and represent the desires and best interests of all citizens. And yet, again and again, we are seeing that young women continue to be under-represented in politics and decision making processes due to historical and structural unequal power relations, lack of political will by governments in enhancing women's leadership, monetization or commercialization of elections, sexualization of politics, lack of social protection, negative perceptions about young women's leadership, burden of unpaid care and discriminatory laws and policies.

The context of covid-19 pandemic in Uganda has also exacerbated gender inequalities, limited access to political spaces for young people and lowered their interest to participate in political developments in the country.

**Therefore;**

**Aware that,** Uganda has a positive-sum legal and institutional framework for youth participation in national development. The African Youth Charter Article 23 calls for observance of all frameworks to eliminate discrimination and violence against young women in politics, the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa., The Constitution of Uganda of 1995 (Article 33) highlights the fact that Women shall have the right to equal treatment with men and that right shall include equal opportunities in politics ,specific consideration is also provided in the National Youth Council Policy and (Article 108 (3) of the Local Governments Act, 1997<sup>1</sup>

**Recognizing that,** the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and the Inter-Parliamentary Union published a call for female in politics. The call to action identifies **three priority areas** for increasing young women's representation in politics: Priority 1: Nurturing Young Women's Political Aspirations, Priority 2: Supporting Young Women Candidates for Political Office, Priority 3: Empowering Young Women in Office, Investing in Their Leadership.

**With emphasis that,** Young women are the least represented amongst political leadership. The IPU data on youth participation in parliaments show that **only 2.2 per cent of parliamentarians are under 30, and less than 1 per cent are young women.** The exclusion of young women from the adoption of laws, negotiation of budgets and mechanisms to hold governments to account undermines the valuable contributions they make for the good of future generations. Their participation in formal politics is especially important, as young women are leading change on issues like climate change, racial justice and gender equality. They are powerful advocates for intergenerational collaboration and accountability towards a more just, sustainable and equal world. It will benefit us all to have more young women, in all their diversity, representing us when political decisions for the future are made

**Reassuring that** Young Women's political participation is centered and rooted on the principles of human rights, recognized both as a development goal on its own and as vital to accelerating sustainable development, unless women and girls are able to fully realize their civil rights, human development will not be advanced. The sustainable development agenda will only be fully realized if inequality is addressed as both a root cause and consequence of non-commitment to frameworks in support of women's equal participation in development processes.

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<sup>1</sup> Gender Quotas Database; Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance; <https://www.idea.int/data-tools/data/gender-quotas/country-view/293/35>

**Fully cognizant that** Young Women's fundamental rights and freedoms to participate in political processes are as well enshrined in the Ugandan Constitution, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, including the right to personal liberty, due process, dignity, personal security, and bodily integrity, right to life, and freedom from torture, cruel or inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment and the law on handling arrests and detention as provided under Article 23 of the Constitution of Uganda. Based on other operational instruments ratified and domesticated in Uganda for the protection and promotion of women's political participation such as UNSCR 1325, CEDAW, Maputo protocol, to mention a few,

**Recognizing that** young women continue to suffer multidimensional barriers to participate effectively in formal politics and yet women play a huge role in political development.

Much as political spaces have been opened up for women's political activism, patriarchy and 'masculinist', power and authority have remained intact and the violence meted against young women in political parties exacerbate the already existing challenges,

**WE the Interparty Party Youth Platform and Summit leaders** from different political parties gathered here at the Youth dialogue organized by Akina Mama wa Afrika demand and call upon all political actors of the Republic Uganda to account and act on the following concrete measures to increase female youth participation in politics.

- i. We demand that political parties and other political actors design and implement policy proposals and recommendations for increasing female youth participation in politics.
- ii. Ensure adherence to the laws, policies and international instruments domesticated in favor young women's political participation.
- I. Support gender sensitive interventions that are inclusive and responsive to all including needs girls and women in politics.
- II. Support meaningful young women's involvement in politics and desist from actions that promote Violence Against Women (VAW) in political processes.
- III. To ensure putting into action measures that will foster the achievement of the 2030 universal gender parity target with in all political processes.

**Undersigned:**

N	Name	Political Party	Position	Signature
	SARAH TUSHABE MUBIRU	JEEMA	DEPUTY SEC GENERAL	
	Olunga Kennedy	UFA	CLERK/PERSON - Legal	
	KIIRYA ISMAIL	DEMOCRATIC PARTY	VPD PRESIDENT	
	MUTESI ZALIKAH	FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY	VICEDIRECTOR FOR COMMUNICATION	
	MUZEKI FAIZO	U.P.C	YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE	
	MUDEKE SHONOW	CP	Chairman Youth	
	GEORGE KAWUNDA	NRM	PUBLICITY	

9.	MwLinda Walid I Nanyoso Lynet	FDC P.P.P	National youth leader National youth chair	Munshu Xiny
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