



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.



## COVID-19 and Democracy: Can parliaments come to the rescue?

The Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory at Arizona State University are co-hosting an informal panel debate for International Day of Democracy. Can parliaments learn from the past six months to become stronger and more effective institutions that impose checks and balances on executive powers to better serve the people?

**Gabriela Cuevas Barron** was elected in 2017 as the 29<sup>th</sup> President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). She is the youngest President of the IPU and the second woman to hold the post. Gabriela Cuevas Barron has been in politics for the last 20 years. She was a senator from September 2012 to July 2018 and now holds a seat in the Chamber of Deputies. She was the Chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee, which is responsible for the analysis of Mexico's foreign policy. She has worked to promote laws on human rights, gender equality, the fight against corruption, transparency and environmental protection and is particularly active on the human rights of migrants and the protection of children.

**Xiye Bastida** is a teenage climate activist based in New York City and one of the lead organizers of the youth climate justice movement. Xiye was born and raised in Mexico as part of the Otomi-Toltec Indigenous Peoples and holds that philosophy and value-system for caring for Mother Earth. For the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, she co-founded the Re-Earth Initiative, a 501c3 dedicated to educating youth about the intersectionality of the climate crisis. Since 2018, she has spoken at conferences such as the United Nations Climate Summit, COP25 and Earth X. She received the "Spirit of the UN" award in 2018, and was named Teen Vogue's 21 under 21 women changing the world. Xiye is a member of the ASU Global Futures Laboratory 2021 Task Force, along with Earth League co-chairs Peter Schlosser and Johan Rockstrom

**Craig Calhoun** is University Professor of Social Sciences at Arizona State University. Previously, he was Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), President of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), and a professor at NYU, Columbia, and UNC-Chapel Hill. He has published ten books and some 150 articles and chapters on social theory and comparative and historical research on social movements, forms of social solidarity, knowledge institutions, and political economy.

**Andreas Norlén** was elected Speaker of the Riksdag on 24 September 2018. Before that, he was a member of parliament for Östergötland County for the Moderate Party. In the Riksdag, Andreas Norlén has been the Chair of the Committee on the Constitution, a member of the Committee on the Constitution, a member of the War Delegation, and an alternate member of the Committee on Justice and of the Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs.

**Ghassan Salamé** is Professor of International Relations Emeritus at SciencesPo Paris and the founding dean of its Paris School for International Affairs/Psia (2010-2015). He is a member of the Board of the Kofi Annan Foundation. He served as Minister of Culture in the Lebanese Government (2000-2003). He was the UNSG special advisor (2003-2007). He also served as member of the Kofi Annan Rakhine State Commission (2016-2017). His most recent assignment was as the United Nations Secretary-General Special Representative in Libya (2017-2020). He is a member of the Board of the Kofi Annan Foundation as well as serving on a number of other boards of international NGOs and is the author/editor of a dozen books.

**Date:**

Tuesday,  
September 15, 2020

**Time:**

8:00 am - 9:30 am AZT  
11:00 am - 12:30 pm EST  
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm CET

**FREE REGISTRATION :**

<https://na.eventscloud.com/573074>

**Also with:**

**Michelle Bachelet**

is the current United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.



Michelle Bachelet was elected President of Chile on two occasions (2006 – 2010 and 2014 – 2018). She was the first female president of Chile. She also served as Health Minister (2000-2002) as well as Chile's and Latin America's first female Defense Minister (2002 – 2004). During her presidential tenures, she promoted the rights of all but particularly those of the most vulnerable. Among her many achievements, education and tax reforms, and the creation of the National Institute for Human Rights and the Museum of Memory and Human Rights stand out.

**Moderated by Ravi Agrawal**



An award-winning journalist and currently the Managing Editor of Foreign Policy.

Before joining Foreign Policy in 2018, Ravi Agrawal worked at CNN for more than 11 years. He is also the author of INDIA CONNECTED: How the Smartphone is Transforming the World's Largest Democracy.