



Role of Parliamentarian Networks in Addressing ICPD25 Commitments.

Exploring the Asian and Arab Forums

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Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development Toward the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit (GCPPD2023)

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Tokyo, Japan

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) and Its Recommendations

- 1994, the ICPD took place in Cairo, where 179 governments adopted a forward-looking, 20-year Programme of Action (PoA).
- The PoA called for governments to focus on people-centered development policies and programmes, placing human rights, reproductive health, and gender equality at the centre of their efforts.
- The PoA was reviewed in 2019, known as ICPD25, where governments and stakeholders re-affirmed their commitment to the PoA and pledged to accelerate efforts to achieve its goals by 2030.

ICPD25 Nairobi Kenya Dec 2019



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

ON HEALTH, RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT
AT THE NAIROBI SUMMIT ON ICPD+25

*** Participation in the Parliamentary Forum is by invitation only***

Day 1 – Health – Parliamentarians' Commitment to Advance Health

Official Programme Tuesday, 12 November: 15:00-16:30

Venue: Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) Lawn Hall

15:00	Parliamentary Forum Day 1 – Health Introductory Remarks – 10 mins Mr. Neil Datta, Secretary, European Parliamentary Forum for SRR Official Opening of the Parliamentary Forum – 10 mins Hon. Sen. Johnson Arthur Sakaja, Senator for Nairobi County, Chair of Labour Women and Youth Committee Hon. Dr. Gideon Ochanda, MP, Chair of the Kenya Parliamentary SDG Caucus Hon. Petra Bayr, MP, Vice-President, European Parliamentary Forum for SRR Official Opening – 30 mins Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, UNFPA Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union Dr Ian Askew, Director of the Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO	Session Chair Hon. Souhail Alouini, MP, Tunisia
15:50	The Role of Parliamentarians in Advancing Health Observations and debate in plenary – 20 mins Statement by Hon. Marie Rose Nguini-Effa, MP, Cameroon, President of the Forum of African Parliamentarians on Population and Development 4 minutes statements / reactions / debate by Parliamentarians	
16:15	Summary – 5 mins Hon. Mark Nyamita, MP, Kenya, Chair of the Parliamentary Network on Population and Development Closing Remarks – 5 mins Mr. Neil Datta, Secretary, European Parliamentary Forum for SRR	



What are parliamentary networks?

- Parliamentary networks are groups of legislators who come together to advocate for a specific cause or issue.
- These networks can be regional, national, or international in scope, and may focus on a wide range of issues, including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. (SRHR).
- Parliamentary networks can provide a platform for legislators to share best practices, collaborate on advocacy efforts, and build momentum for policy change.

Parliamentarian networks are important

- Parliamentarian networks can amplify the voices of legislators who are advocating for policies and laws for SRHR.
- These networks can provide a forum for legislators to share their experiences and expertise, and to learn from each other.
- Parliamentarian networks can also facilitate partnerships with civil society organizations, UN agencies, and other stakeholders, which can help to build momentum for policy change.
- By working together, parliamentarians can help to ensure that SRHR is prioritized in national and international policy agendas.

Some examples of parliamentary networks

- African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (APFPD)
- Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)
- European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF)
- Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD)
- Latin American and Caribbean Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (LACPF)
- Parliamentary Forum for Health and Well-being of Eastern Mediterranean Region. (PFHW-EMRO)
- Parliamentary Network on Population and Development (PNPD)
- The Arab Women Parliamentarians Network (AWPN)

Role of Parliamentary Networks in Addressing ICPD25 Commitments

- The role of parliamentary networks is crucial in ensuring the implementation of the ICPD25 commitments
- Parliamentary networks play a key role in promoting policy changes, mobilizing resources and advocating for the rights of women, girls and marginalized groups
- The networks provide a platform for parliamentarians to share best practices, experiences and challenges in addressing the ICPD25 commitments

Arab Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (APFPD)

- The APFPD was established in 2012 to address population and development issues in the Arab region
- The network aims to promote dialogue and cooperation among Arab parliamentarians, civil society organizations and government officials
- The APFPD has been instrumental in advocating for women's rights, gender equality and reproductive health in the Arab region

APFPD & AFPPD meeting in Rabat, Morocco 2019



Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

- The AFPPD was established in 1981 and is the largest parliamentary network in the Asia-Pacific region
- The network aims to promote population and development issues in the region, with a focus on reproductive health, gender equality and youth empowerment
- The AFPPD has been instrumental in advocating for policies that support the rights of women, girls and marginalized groups, and has been a key player in shaping the regional and global agendas on population and development

**Arab and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting to Follow-Up on ICPD25 Commitments:
Addressing Youth Empowerment
and Gender-Based Violence
Jakarta, Indonesia 1-2 March 2023**



Regional Parliamentary Forum for Health and Well-being

- First meeting opened in Tunis, Tunisia 2019, June
- Platform of parliamentarians from the Eastern Mediterranean Region.
- Parliamentarians are working together to address regional strategic public health priorities to advance the health and well-being of their populations.
- WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean is providing technical support to the Forum and facilitating its activities.

First meeting of the Regional Parliamentary Forum for Health and Well-being in Tunis, Tunisia. June, 2019



COVID-19 and the Role of Parliaments

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on global health, economy and society.
- Parliaments have a critical role in responding to the pandemic and ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable populations are met.
- Parliamentary networks have been instrumental in providing policy guidance, resources and advocacy to address the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on population and development issues.

Importance of Parliamentarians Forums in Population and Development

- Parliaments are key institutions in ensuring that population and development policies are implemented and that the needs of all citizens are met.
- Parliamentarians have a unique role in shaping laws, policies and budgets that impact the lives of women, girls and marginalized groups.
- Parliamentary networks provide a platform for parliamentarians to exchange ideas, build capacity and advocate for policies that promote population and development goals.

Recommendations for Parliamentarians and their Networks

- Increase funding and resources for population and development programs.
- Promote policies and laws that support Universal Health Coverage, gender equality, reproductive health and rights, and the empowerment of women and girls.
- Strengthen parliamentary oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure that population and development policies are effectively implemented
- Build alliances and partnerships with civil society organizations, private sector and international development partners to promote population and development goals

Japan Trust Fund (JTF)



- Has funded such a parliamentary networks and their platforms. Due to its support Arab and Asian parliamentarians have been exchanging and cooperating through inter-regional discussions since 2017 to advocate and address populations issues in their respective regions as described earlier.
- I would like here to appreciate their support for all our networks activities.

Conclusion

- The ICPD25 commitments are critical to ensuring that every individual has the right to live a healthy and fulfilling life
- Parliamentary networks play a critical role in advocating for the implementation of the ICPD25 commitments and promoting population and development goals
- It is important for parliamentarians and their networks to work together to ensure that the needs of the general population, women, girls and marginalized groups are met, and that all individuals have access to the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential.

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Thank you!

