



Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

2nd AFPPD Standing Committee Joint-Meeting: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Investing in Youth

23 March 2017 | Bangkok, Thailand

TIME	AGENDA ITEMS
09:00	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Co-chairpersons of Standing Committee on GEWE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Lord Fusitu'a, MP Tonga, Co-Chairperson of Standing Committee on Population and Development of Tonga ➤ Hon. Ms. Ria Bond, MP New Zealand, Representing Chairperson of New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development (NZPPD) <p>Co-chairpersons of Standing Committee on Investing in Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Ms. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay, MP, Nepal, Chairperson of National Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (NFPPA)
09:20	<p>Agenda Overview & AFPPD Standing Committees Activities 2016-2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director of AFPPD
09:30	<p>Expert Presentation: "Political Participation by Women and Youth"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Caroline Horekens, Coordinator, Political and Economic Empowerment portfolio of programmes, UN Women Fund for Gender Equality, Thailand <p>Q&A</p>
10:00	<p>Working Coffee Break</p>
10:15	<p>Agenda Item 1: Quota and Reserved Seats for Youth and Women in Parliaments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>"Country Situations and Implications"</i> (Slide Presentation) ➤ Open Discussion ➤ Recommendations to the AFPPD Executive Committee
10:45	<p>Agenda Item 2: Gender Responsive National Budgeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>"Why Gender Responsive Budgeting?"</i> (Slide Presentation) ➤ Open Discussion ➤ Recommendations to the AFPPD Executive Committee
11:30	<p>Agenda Item 3: Capacity Building Support for Women and Youth in Running Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Good Practices - Country Presentations (TBD) – Youth Parliament/Practice Parliament ➤ Open Discussion ➤ Recommendations to the AFPPD Executive Committee
12:15	<p>Closing Remarks by Representative of Co-Chairs of the Standing Committees (TBD)</p> <p>Wrap-up of the 2nd Joint Standing Committee Meeting on GEWE & Investing in Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director of AFPPD <p>Evaluation</p>
12:30	<p>Lunch</p>



AFPPD 2nd Joint Standing Committee Meeting
by
Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)
Standing Committee on Investing in Youth

“Political Participation by Women and Youth in Asia-Pacific”

23 March 2017 | Bangkok, Thailand

Concept Note

(As of March 10, 2017)

Background:

The Asian Forum Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) has positioned **political participation by women and youth** among the key strategic priority issues to be addressed during the current Strategic Cycle 2016-2019. AFPPD Strategic Plan (2016-2019) was approved one month after UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. Under the SDG 5 - *achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*, all UN Member States are mandated to *ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life* (Goal 5.5). Furthermore, the means of implementation (5.c) made a direct and explicit reference to the role of parliamentarians --- *Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels*.

Against this background, AFPPD has so far implemented a series of activities addressing women's political and economic participation, as well as youth participation in political, economic and social decision-making processes. Most recently at the 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference in November 2016, participating parliamentarians engaged in an intense debate on political participation by women, specifically responding to the questions regarding (1) why women's political participation in Asia-Pacific remains low; (2) what barriers are most critical that need to be removed in order to increase women's political participation in Asia-Pacific; (3) whether or not the introduction of a quota system in many Asia-Pacific countries has effectively improved women's political participation, thus promoting female leadership in parliament; and (4) what specific actions both male and female political leaders can take in increasing further women's political participation.

Three key areas for improvement and recommended actions that came out of the debate are noteworthy: (1) gender and youth responsive legislation, policymaking and budgeting; (2) awareness-raising, educational and mentoring opportunities for women and youth at an early stage; and (3) capacity building for women and youth.¹ The *Statement of Commitment* unanimously adopted

¹ Please see the Conference Report Session 3: Women's Political Participation. PP. 22-27.
<https://www.afppd.org/events/event-docs/20-full-report-final-compressed-report.pdf>



by the 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference also summed up the role of parliamentarians in order to increase political participation by women as follows (paras 27-29):

- **Recognize** the undeniable value of increasing women's political participation, promoting national policies and priorities to advance gender equality in all spheres of the society;
- **Commit** to employing gender-responsive budgeting, and allocating appropriate budgetary resources to gender equality and gender issues, including toward collecting sex-and age-disaggregated data to inform policy and monitor policy and program implementation; and
- **Commit** to enabling and paving the way for women of all ages and backgrounds to actively engage and participate in political activity, by encouraging women to exercise their right to vote, considering the enhancement of the number of women in local legislative assemblies and Parliaments or the introduction of targets or quotas for women candidates or women parliamentarians, maintaining and supporting existing networks for women in politics, creating new networks for young women interested in political leadership and offering them training and mentoring opportunities.

As for youth political participation, young people represent extremely low in national parliaments in the world. While people aged between 20 and 44 make up 57% of the world's voting age population, only 26% of the world's Members of Parliaments.² Globally, less than 6% and 2% of the parliamentarians are under 35 and 30 years old, respectively. The average age in parliament is 53 years old.³ Despite this, only three countries in Asia-Pacific have so far adopted youth quotas, Kyrgyzstan (15%; under 36), Sri Lanka (25%; under 35) and the Philippines (50%; unknown), and their youth representation under 40 is quite high. There is no substantive difference compared to the countries without quotas in the case of political participation by those younger than 30 years old, however.

The 2nd Joint Standing Committee meeting on GEWE and Investing in Youth will take up such topics that require Standing Committee members to make an in-depth analysis to gain deeper understanding on barriers to, and necessary actions for increased political participation by women and youth. Standing Committee members will make recommendations to the AFPPD Executive Committee for its national, regional and global advocacy action plans.

Purpose:

Building on the outcomes of the AFPPD's 2016 activities, the 2nd Joint Standing Committee Meeting on GEWE and Investing in Youth will provide Standing Committee members with the platform to share good practices to increase political participation by women and youth. Concrete action plans will be drafted for the respective countries in Asia-Pacific, thus contributing to achieving the SDG 5.5. The meeting will also prepare and make recommendations to AFPPD Executive Committee and the 12th General Assembly for AFPPD's shared sub-regional, regional and global advocacy plans in order to increase political participation by women and young people.

² IPU. *Youth Participation in National Parliament 2016*. P.4.

³ UN. *Public Civic Participation*. Accessed January 25, 2017.

[<http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/YouthStatsPublicpdf2.pdf>]



Expected Results:

1. Increased knowledge and shared good practices on youth and gender-responsive national legislation and budgeting in order to increase political participation by women and youth.
2. Concrete action plans for the Standing Committee on GEWE and the Standing Committee on Investing in Youth in raising awareness, educating, and mentoring women and youth to encourage political participation.
3. Recommended national, regional and global advocacy plans for AFPPD to take up in order to contribute to increased political participation by women and youth in Asia-Pacific.

Format:

Resource persons will make presentations regarding political participation by women and youth, followed by country presentations to share good practices.

Participants:

Members of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.
Members of the Standing Committee on Investing in Youth.
Resource persons to present the overview of political participation by women and youth.

Date and Venue:

23 March 2017 (9:00-12:30), Bangkok, Thailand



Annex 1:

Key Areas for improvement and recommended actions from Session 3 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference, 4-5 November 2016

Gender & Youth Responsive Legislation, Policymaking and Budgeting

- Recognize the obligation of Parliaments to adopt **gender-responsive government budgeting**.
- Develop most effective and non-disruptive ways to secure **reserved seats** for women in parliament.
- Identify and rectify **legislation and policy gaps** in countries where women's higher educational attainment has neither been translated into women's higher political participation nor economic participation and equal pay for the same work. (e.g., lack of paid maternity leave or flexible work arrangements; absence/lack of paternity leave or barriers for fathers to take paternity leave, Review subsidies and tax incentives for child and elderly care).

Awareness-Raising, Educational and Mentoring Support for Women and Youth:

- Review the **role of media** in perpetuating the stereotypes of the role of women, developing a positive image of women in leadership roles.
- Provide women and youth with **proper opportunities for experience and education** from the start, thus encouraging them to run for office (e.g., a youth parliament and/or practice parliament).
- Play the role of parliamentarians, both men and women, to **mentor and support women running for office**, and use their influence to continually raise women's issues and gender issues in the public dialogue.

Collective Capacity Building for Women and Youth:

- Develop the capacity of women and young parliamentarians to coordinate and consolidate **their collective political will and efforts** to advance gender equality.
- Engage in **international parliamentary forums** to hold specialized panel sessions on gender issues for strengthening women and young parliamentarians' solidarity.



Annex 2: Women in National Parliaments

Table 1. Lower or single House

Proportion of female MPs	Quota	
	Yes	No
30.1% and higher	Timor-Leste ^{1 2} (38.5%)	New Zealand (31.4%)
20.1%-30%	Philippines ^{2 3} (29.8%) Nepal ¹ (29.6%) Australia ³ (28.7%) Afghanistan ² (27.7%) China ² (23.6%) Pakistan ² (20.6%)	Lao PDR (27.5%) Kazakhstan (27.1%) Vietnam (26.7%) Cambodia (20.3%)
10.1%-20%	Bangladesh ² (20%) Kyrgyzstan ¹ (19.2%) Mongolia ¹ (17.1%) Indonesia ¹ (17.1%) Republic of Korea ¹ (17%) India ² (12%)	Tajikistan (19%) Cooks Islands (16.6%) Malaysia (10.4%)
1%-10%	Thailand ³ (6.1%)	Japan (9.5%) Bhutan (8.5%) Iran (5.9%) Maldives (5.9%) Sri Lanka (5.8%) Tonga (3.8%) Papua New Guinea (2.7%)

Table 2. Upper House or Senate

Proportion of female MPs	Quota	
	Yes	No
30.1% and higher	Australia ³ (36.8%)	
20.1%-30%	Philippines ^{2 3} (25%) Afghanistan ² (26.5%)	Tajikistan (23%) Malaysia (21.9%) Japan (20.7%)
10.1%-20%	Pakistan ² (18.3%) India ² (11.1%)	Cambodia (16.4%)
1%-10%		Bhutan (8%) Kazakhstan (6.4%)

¹ - Countries with legislated candidate quotas in the lower or upper House of Parliament or at sub-national levels

² - Countries with reserved seats in the lower or upper House of Parliament or at sub-national levels

³ - Countries with voluntary gender quotas for the lower, upper House of Parliament or at sub-national levels

Source: IPU Website.



Annex 3: Youth in National Parliaments

Table 3. Percentage of Parliamentarians aged under 30 (*under 40* percentage for four countries only)

	Quota	
	Yes	No
Lower and single Houses	Kyrgyzstan ¹ (4.2%; <u>35%</u>) [Quota 15% for <36 years old] Sri Lanka ¹ (2.4%; <u>12.4%</u>) [Quota 25% for <35 years old] Philippines ¹ (1.7%; <u>15.8%</u>) [Quota 50% for <unknown age]	Bhutan (5.6%) Tajikistan (3% <40 years old) Indonesia (2.9%) India (2.2%) New-Zealand (1.7%) Afghanistan (1.6%) China (1.2%) Viet Nam (1.2%) Japan (0.8%) Myanmar (0.5%) Australia (0.4%) Bangladesh (0.3%) <u>No representation:</u> Cambodia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Timor- Leste, Thailand and Tuvalu
Upper Houses	Philippines ¹ (0%)	Bhutan (9.1%) Tajikistan (6% <40 years old) Myanmar (0.5%) <u>No representation:</u> Afghanistan, Australia, Cambodia, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia,

¹ – Countries with legislated quotas in the lower or upper House of Parliament.

Source: IPU 2016, Youth participation in national parliaments. P.17. AFPPD staff interview (The Parliament of Tajikistan) in March 2017.