



CONFERENCE REPORT

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference

Ensuring Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment from a Life-Cycle Approach Leaving No Girls and No Women Behind

4 – 5 November 2016 | Bangkok, Thailand



Table of Contents

OPENING SESSION	2
PLENARY SESSION	6
SESSION 1: Women’s Empowerment: Elimination of Violence Against Women	10
SESSION 2: Ensuring Girls’ and Women’s Health Throughout Their Life Courses	17
SESSION 3: Women’s Political Participation	22
SESSION 4: Women’s Economic Participation	28
SESSION 5: Ensuring the Rights of the Vulnerable	34
SESSION 6: Adoption of Parliamentarians’ Declaration and Commitments	40
CLOSING SESSION	42
ANNEX	45

© Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) 2016
No. 128/101, Suite 9-C, Phayathai Plaza Bldg., Phayathai Road, Ratchathewi, Bangkok, Thailand 10400
Tel: (66) 2 2192903-4 Fax: (66) 2 2192905
Email: afppd@afppd.org; mika@afppd.org
www.afppd.org

OPENING SESSION

Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi opened the conference and requested Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont to convene the meeting with brief words to memorialize the passing of the King of Thailand. Hon. Dr. Sirathranont shared those words of condolence and asked for some moments of silence on behalf of the Thai people and the loss of King Bhumibol Adulyadej.



Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi (MP Japan, Chair of AFPPD and Co-Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Active Ageing) opened the 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

Chair: Dr. Mika Marumoto, AFPPD Executive Director

Dr. Marumoto convened the meeting and welcomed the participants. She introduced Hon. Prof. Takemi and invited him to address the conference.

Welcome address: Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, AFPPD Chairperson and Co-Chair of the AFPPD Standing Committee on Active Ageing

Hon. Prof. Takemi greeted and welcomed the honoured guests to the meeting, and thanked the Government of Thailand for its support for the conference.

Hon. Prof. Takemi briefly recalled the first Women's Ministers and Parliamentarians conference in the Philippines, and reminded participants that these conferences had subsequently been held almost every year throughout the region. Hon. Prof. Takemi noted that, despite the support developed at forums like this one, Asian women still face many challenges, including violence, harassment, and other gender inequalities. Although the Philippines and New Zealand were ranked highly in the latest gender gap report of the World Economic Forum, many of the AFPPD's member countries ranked in the bottom of the gender gap analysis. Accordingly, Hon. Prof. Takemi called for collective political will and efforts to close this gender gap.

Hon. Prof. Takemi also recalled the role of the AFPPD in hosting the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development toward the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in ensuring women's empowerment and population issues were at the forefront of the G7's agenda. In particular, the *G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration* validated the Parliamentarians' declaration in

showing their commitment to improving women's access to higher paying jobs and closing the wage gap. Furthermore, the G7 recognized the importance of universal health coverage (UHC) in providing for women's health needs. Hon. Prof. Takemi also noted how many of the parliamentarians who attended this conference lamented the slow progress in achieving gender equality despite the shared will and efforts to do so.

In closing, Hon. Prof. Takemi wished the conference attendees a productive time of participating in the conference. He further reminded the network of their power as a regional force for change and progress in reiterating their shared goals and taking those goals back to their national Parliaments.

Welcome address: Ms. Lubna Baqi, Deputy Regional Director, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (UNFPA APRO)



Ms. Lubna Baqi (Deputy Regional Director of UNFPA APRO) delivered the welcome address, encouraging participants to recognize the importance of supporting women and girls throughout their life cycle.

Ms. Baqi greeted the conference participants by reminding them of the critical moment in which they are meeting – the end of the first year of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) era. She recalled the background principles set by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action that informed the development of the SDGs. Ms. Baqi also called on participants to recognize the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in the SDGs, which addresses women's issues throughout the life cycle of women and girls.

Ms. Baqi recalled the progress made toward the achievement of the SDGs. During the MDG era, positive progress toward women's empowerment and women's health outcomes were achieved, including significant reductions in maternal mortality, access to family planning, and declining rates of child marriage. However, she noted that much remains to be done, particularly in regards to FGM and intimate partner violence. In Asia in particular, maternal deaths and the rates of child marriage remain high, despite worldwide trends of decline. Violence against women also remains high in the region, and the number of women in Parliament remain very low across Asia, and extremely low in the Pacific.

In regard to the reasons why progress was held back in achieving the goals, Ms. Baqi reaffirmed to participants that in fact the poorest women and girls remain the most vulnerable to these and other forms of exploitation and harms. She also warned of the rise in extremism, which can impact the progressive realization of women's empowerment and women's rights, as well as all of the SDGs. She also noted the narrowing space for civil society in many countries, which can severely impact women's rights if they lose this critical voice for their rights. Furthermore, the problem of humanitarian disasters in the Asia region can disproportionately impact women and girls.

In closing, Ms. Baqi encouraged participants to recognize the importance of supporting women and girls throughout their life cycle. To begin with, she noted the critical importance of supporting girls in their health and education when they are young, so that they grow into women who have an opportunity to earn an income and participate in political, family, and social life. The mothers of these young girls must also have the capacity to support their children and families through earning an income, as well as participating in all aspects of political and social life. Older women face particular challenges to their health and are vulnerable to discrimination, all of which makes them even more likely to fall into poverty. Ms. Baqi in particular pointed to the role of men in supporting women's own efforts to realize their rights. Furthermore, improving women's health services would also contribute greatly to women's empowerment. Finally, ensuring proper monitoring and evaluation of the policies and programs that aim to help women, including through the production of sex-disaggregated data, will be critical in these efforts.

Welcome address: H.E. Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand



H.E. Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai (President of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand) delivered the welcome address and spoke about Thailand's commitments to gender equality.

H.E. Wichitcholchai welcomed the honoured guests and participants to the conference. H.E. Wichitcholchai noted that, in the first year of the SDGs, Thailand has been working to realize the goals. Thailand has hosted G-77 meetings and shared its Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) with these nations. H.E. Wichitcholchai recalled Thailand's progressive economic platform and its successes in achieving greater equality for all, and in particular for poor Thais, women, and other vulnerable groups. He noted that Thailand's development approach specifically supports women and promotes their development. He explained that Thailand is currently in its eleventh

development period covering 2012-2016 for its social and economic development plans. The twelfth plan, already drafted and ready for implementation, will ensure that no one is left behind.

H.E. Wichitcholchai also recognized the specific role of parliamentarians in promoting these aims through progressive legislation, and by being the voice of all people and ensuring they hear from their constituents regularly in making policies. Through this approach, Thailand has made great strides in eradicating poverty. Now, it must use the same efforts and resources to eradicate the gender gap, which Thailand took a significant step in 1985 in ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Thailand has also ratified the optional protocol to CEDAW and the Beijing Platform. In 2007, H.E. Wichitcholchai noted that the Thai Parliament adopted a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, as well as revising many other discriminatory laws and provisions of the penal code.

H.E. Wichitcholchai explained that Thailand's commitment to gender equality also shows through its gender responsive budgeting, which was implemented in 2006. Thailand's implementation of universal health coverage (UHC) in 2002 has allowed the health sector to support the health of all people, including women, throughout their life cycles. The recent adolescent pregnancy law has provided for enhanced access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and family planning resources for young girls, and assistance to them to complete their education if they do become pregnant and give birth before finishing school.

In closing, H.E. Wichitcholchai wished participants a successful conference to learn and share experiences throughout the next two days.

The opening session closed with the Chair of AFPPD providing a small gift of appreciation to the Speaker.



Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi (MP Japan, Chair of AFPPD and Co-Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Active Ageing) provided a small gift of appreciation to H.E. Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai (President of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand).

PLENARY SESSION

Chair: Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, AFPPD Chairperson

The Chair introduced the video recalling the first 10 Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conferences of AFPPD.

Video: The 1st ~ 10th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conferences

Keynote address: Hon. Ms. Gulmira Kudaiberdieva, Vice Prime Minister, Kyrgyzstan



Hon. Ms. Gulmira Kudaiberdieva (Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan) delivered the keynote address and highlighted Kyrgyzstan's approaches to achieve gender equality.

Hon. Ms. Kudaiberdieva greeted the conference participants and thanked the Chair for convening the meeting. She firstly recognized the critical role of the departed King of Thailand in advancing the development of the country and shared her condolences with the Thai people. Hon. Ms. Kudaiberdieva also noted the critical role of gender equality in furthering other development objectives. In particular, Hon. Ms. Kudaiberdieva noted gaps in women's access to economic participation worldwide, and highlighted the continued scourge of violence against women, which is the least prosecuted crime worldwide. Hon. Ms. Kudaiberdieva also noted the problems of child marriage and trafficking, often for the purpose of sexual exploitation, which plague women and girls and threaten their safety and security.

Hon. Ms. Kudaiberdieva explained how Kyrgyzstan has approached achieving gender equality. She noted that the constitution of Kyrgyzstan provides for gender equality and prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender. She explained that Kyrgyzstan's election law requires gender quotas to ensure gender parity in the national assembly. Hon. Ms. Kudaiberdieva further noted that Kyrgyzstan has adopted other gender protective legislation, as well as gender-based budgeting practices. She noted that, in Kyrgyzstan's reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the country shows improvements each year. At local levels in Kyrgyzstan, Hon. Ms. Kudaiberdieva noted that women's participation continues to improve, although it does lag behind in the rural areas. Due to this finding, a program for economic empowerment of rural women in Kyrgyzstan has been prioritized.

Hon. Ms. Kudaiberdieva noted that child marriage and adolescent pregnancy can arrest progress toward women’s empowerment goals. To address these issues in Kyrgyzstan, she reported that the Parliament recently adopted the “Nikah Law” which bans conducting a religious wedding ceremony without a civic marriage certificate in order to eliminate early, child and forced marriage, and is in the process of adopting a new 10-year plan on child protection. Furthermore, she noted that Kyrgyzstan is also in the process of adopting progressive policies to protect the elderly and promote their social and political participation so that women are protected by law throughout their life cycles.

In closing, Hon. Ms. Kudaiberdieva noted Kyrgyzstan has set up an SDG Coordination Committee under Prime Minister, and emphasized the role of the SDGs in guiding the development of national policies in Kyrgyzstan. She also noted the role of partnerships with civil society and other international partners in ensuring Kyrgyzstan achieves its development goals. She particularly highlighted Kyrgyzstan’s focus on gender equality in guiding the process of achieving the SDGs as one of the strengths of Kyrgyzstan’s SDG and development approach.

Keynote address: Hon. Mr. Adérito Hugo da Costa, President of the Parliament, Timor-Leste



Hon. Mr. Adérito Hugo da Costa (President of the Parliament of Timor-Leste) delivered the keynote address, highlighting women’s political participation in his country.

Hon. Mr. da Costa greeted conference participants and expressed condolences to the people of Thailand for the recent passing of the King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Hon. Mr. da Costa opened his remarks by highlighting the process of increasing women’s political participation in Timor-Leste. Along with many highly developed Nordic countries, Timor-Leste now has almost 40% of its seats in Parliament held by women. Across the Asia-Pacific countries, he noted that Timor-Leste is now a leader in the region for women’s political participation, and is among the top 20 countries. In fact, Timor-Leste is even above the United States in women’s representation in Parliament.

Hon. Mr. da Costa noted that the creation of the Women’s Resource Centre in Timor-Leste by the Parliament has led to revisions of the Civil Code and Labour Code to provide for more gender equitable principles and provisions. Through improvements to its national laws, Hon. Mr. da Costa reported that Timor-Leste has seen maternal and infant mortality rates improve. However, Hon. Mr. da Costa recognized that health outcomes for women in Timor-Leste need significant improvement. Its fertility rate is the highest in the region, and additional health workers are needed to meet the demands of women’s health needs in particular.

Hon. Mr. da Costa also noted the problem of early marriage in perpetuating cycles of poverty and violence, and in harming the health of young girls. He further noted the importance of focusing on young people's health so that they can complete their education and develop income-generating careers. In particular, addressing the needs of youth in accessing their SRHR is one of Timor-Leste's primary aims at the current time. The Parliament also aims to prevent early pregnancy in order to safeguard girls' health and rights to education, as well as extending Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) to youth who are not attending school.

Hon. Mr. da Costa also noted the critical role of education in promoting girls' SRHR. The Timor-Leste Youth Parliament has taken a leading role in disseminating key SRHR information to their peers. Furthermore, Hon. Mr. da Costa noted that the government is aiming to adopt a policy to facilitate re-enrolment into school for girls who have already had children.

In closing, Hon. Mr. da Costa called upon all Parliamentarians to be a voice for their people, in particular, their most vulnerable members, in order to promote health, education, and well-being throughout the life cycle. Engaging with religious groups to improve strategies for SRHR, engaging with the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, and engaging with youth groups has been the key to Timor-Leste's success. Finally, Hon. Mr. da Costa encouraged the other Parliamentarians to take up the cause of women's and girls' rights as they have done in Timor-Leste.

Keynote address: Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni, Speaker of the Parliament, Fiji



Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni (Speaker of Parliament, Fiji) delivered the keynote address, highlighting the Fijian Parliament's follow-up actions on Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Hon. Dr. Luveni greeted the conference participants and expressed condolences to the Thai people for the passing of their beloved King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Hon. Dr. Luveni first explained to the conference participants the Parliamentary structure in Fiji, where 50 members of Parliament serve, and that currently 19% of them are women. Hon. Dr. Luveni provided information about a policy for expectant mothers to receive food vouchers and to deliver in sanitary conditions at hospitals. She furthermore noted that Fiji also provides free education, transport to school, and free textbooks, allowing girls and boys to access education despite their family economic background. Hon. Dr. Luveni pointed out that, in Fiji, girls and boys equally have access to tertiary education, and girls in fact outnumber boys in rates of graduation from universities in Fiji.

Hon. Dr. Luveni also explained the priority placed upon supporting women entrepreneurs in Fiji. Nonetheless, she noted that women still suffer vulnerabilities in their economic participation due to climate change and historical structures of patriarchy. Accordingly, Hon. Dr. Luveni called upon women to support other women in accessing political leadership posts, taking on new economic opportunities, and taking up leadership roles.

Hon. Dr. Luveni presented an example of how Fiji is bringing greater awareness of the SDGs to its people and other members of Parliament through a process of Speaker's Debates. These debates take on different critical topics and Goals, and the program has largely proven to be successful in raising awareness and developing an excitement around achieving the SDGs and other development goals. Hon. Dr. Luveni is also advocating for the dissemination of demographic data to Parliamentarians in order to better inform their policy development process. In fact, Hon. Dr. Luveni was named an ambassador to champion the SDGs in Parliament, and in that role, she continues re-focusing the Parliament's progress toward the achievement of the SDGs. In closing, Hon. Dr. Luveni noted the important role of civil society in collaborating with Government and Parliament to achieve the SDGs.

SESSION 1: Women’s Empowerment: Elimination of Violence Against Women



Panelists and presenters from Session 1 included Members of Parliaments from Thailand, Pakistan and Fiji, and representatives from UNFPA APRO, SAIEVAC and Alliance Against Slavery.

Chair: Ms. Lubna Baqi, Deputy Regional Director, UNFPA APRO

Ms. Baqi opened her remarks by noting the endemic nature of violence against women in Asia, which undermines women’s dignity and security, as well as their reproductive choices. She also noted that the CEDAW and the Declaration on Violence against Women set the framework for women’s protection against violence, including Goal 5 of the SDGs. Although the framework for women’s and girls’ protection does exist, more can yet be done to further empower women and girls.

Video: Women’s Empowerment: Elimination of Violence Against Women

Case Study from Briefing Cards [Women-Safety & Security #1; Youth-Safety & Security #2]

Inspirational Speaker: Ms. Brooke Axtell, Director of Communications and Survivor Leadership, Allies Against Slavery



Ms. Brooke Axtell (Director of Communications and Survivor Leadership at Allies Against Slavery) shared her survival and healing story of sex trafficking and sexual abuse in the United States.

Ms. Axtell shared her personal story of sex trafficking and sexual abuse in the United States, and how being a survivor of trafficking can affect the mental and physical health of survivors. When Ms. Axtell experienced domestic violence in an intimate relationship later in her life, she sought care at a domestic violence shelter. She noted the critical impact of this care in her healing and empowerment, and emphasized the need for trauma-informed care in order to rehabilitate survivors of trafficking and abuse. She also encouraged MPs to consider how they can enhance allocations for these kinds of trauma-informed care programs and for shelters.

Ms. Axtell also shared the story of an Indian trafficking survivor who she works with, and who has become a leader among other survivors. Ms. Axtell explained that this experience brought her to a new level of commitment to end trafficking worldwide. She noted that young women, targeted because of their gender, are the most vulnerable to trafficking, abuse, and exploitation. She then encouraged policymakers to consider how addressing economic inequality can address gender equality goals as well. To this end, she encouraged Parliamentarians to incorporate survivor leaders in the process of policy-making on trafficking and exploitation. She noted the innovation and expertise of survivors in being able to influence policy in a unique way. Furthermore, she noted the importance of engaging men and boys in sexuality education and healthy sexual practices, above all teaching compassion and respect, and challenging narratives that teach men and boys not to respect women in relationships and the family context. In particular, partnering with religious leaders and institutions can be critical to bringing moderate voices and changing perspectives. She lastly mentioned the critical importance of public-private partnerships in empowering survivors to develop income-generating skills, and partnering with civil society to invite survivors to the policy making table.

Presentation: Ms. Ingrid Fitzgerald, Technical Adviser, Gender and Human Rights, UNFPA APRO



Ms. Ingrid Fitzgerald (Technical Advisor on Gender and Human Rights at UNFPA APRO) noted that ending violence against women is crucial to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ms. Fitzgerald began her presentation by addressing the definition of violence against women (VAW) according to the UN, which includes domestic violence, non-domestic violence, and psychological violence. Furthermore, Ms. Fitzgerald noted that violence affects women at every age and stage of life, and that intimate partner violence (IPV) is most often committed by husbands against their wives.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that comparing statistics of lifetime violence and violence in the last one year, in those countries with the greatest gaps between these two statistics, women actually may have the opportunity to get out of the abusive situations because of shelters or other resources. In fact, Ms. Fitzgerald noted that the Pacific is one of the worst regions for women having opportunities to get out of the abusive situations. Although some countries in the region have begun to conduct surveys on VAW, many countries still need to conduct such surveys to get data toward SDG Target 5.2. In this regard, Ms. Fitzgerald noted that data on the prevalence and type of VAW can inform targeted policy approaches to protecting women against violence.

In addressing the causes and patterns related to IPV, Ms. Fitzgerald noted that childhood abuse and neglect of perpetrators are some of the factors most highly correlated to IPV. Up to half of men who admitted they committed rape admitted to have done so before the age of 20. Up to 71% of these men who admitted that they committed rape also claimed they did so out of a sense of entitlement to have sex with a woman whether or not she wanted to and whether or not she consented. As a sign of progress, Ms. Fitzgerald noted that most countries in Asia have laws protecting women against violence, but laws on marital rape and harassment are less common. To address these gaps and needs, Ms. Fitzgerald called for a package of victim-friendly essential services to be made available to women to encourage them to report when they experience violence and seek the assistance they need to leave the violent situation. She pointed participants to a new toolkit for essential services recently released by the UN in this regard.

In terms of prevention, Ms. Fitzgerald noted that relationship-level interventions, targeting men and boys, and providing micro-credit to survivors can be effective. Alcohol reduction programs and school-based interventions tend to be less effective as far as evidentiary proof and value. Furthermore, CSE based on gender, power, and rights delivered through schools has a measurable impact on changing attitudes, norms, and behaviours around sexuality. Ms. Fitzgerald closed her presentation by noting the critical importance of ending VAW in order to achieve all of the SDGs.

Panelist: Hon. Ms. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi, MP Pakistan



Hon. Ms. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi (MP Pakistan) encouraged parliamentarians to redouble their efforts to adopt legislation and policies to protect women and girls.

Hon. Ms. Rashdi began her presentation by recalling the main principles enshrined in the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) to recognize the inalienable human rights of all people. She also noted how religion, culture, and mind-set can influence the perpetration of violence and discrimination against women. Overall, she noted that the lack of

political will to prioritize women's rights might be the point that the MPs in attendance at the conference can most directly address. Despite positive legislation adopted to protect women, the effective implementation of these principles is yet to be achieved in many countries.

Culturally, Hon. Ms. Rashdi noted the entrenched system of patriarchy in the Asia region that keeps women from realizing their full rights. She encouraged participants to consider how to teach their own children to respect women. Furthermore, she noted the lack of education and high rates of illiteracy that continue the cycles of gender inequality and violence against women. Hon. Ms. Rashdi noted that women may also depend economically on men, and certain laws might be antiquated and insufficient in protecting women and helping them emerge out of this economic dependency cycle. She provided the example of honour killing in Pakistan as one of the worst cultural practices of violence against women in the region, as well as exchange marriage. She noted that domestic violence is also on the increase, and accordingly Pakistan has recently adopted laws on domestic violence, and on the restraint of child marriage. In regard to the child marriage law, she noted how the parliament utilized data and research to determine the proper minimum age for marriage in adopting the law.

Hon. Ms. Rashdi noted the challenges Parliamentarians face in garnering support for legislation protective of women and girls. She nonetheless encouraged MPs to redouble their efforts to adopt progressive legislation and policies to protect women and girls despite opposition. As the President of the Family Planning Association in Pakistan, she noted the role of this association in addressing many women's policy issues in Pakistan, including facilitating more economic opportunities for women. She encouraged Parliamentarians from other countries to consider the role of similar networks and commissions in continuing to refine and raise women's issues into the future.

Panelist: Hon. Ms. Mereseini Vuniwaqa, MP Fiji, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation



Hon. Ms. Mereseini Vuniwaqa (MP Fiji and Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation) highlighted the importance of involving communities and community leaders in tackling violence against women.

Hon. Ms. Vuniwaqa noted that the legal and policy framework are critical to ending violence against women, but also providing women with economic rights and educational rights to end cycles of violence. Hon. Ms. Vuniwaqa encouraged MPs to consider how to ground gender policies in national constitutional principles. As an example of this type of action, she shared how new legal frameworks in Fiji have permitted police officers to issue restraining orders by phone in order to provide women with immediate protection against violence wherever possible. Other rights include rights to free education with scholarships based on merit, access to transportation and housing, social security, health,

and political rights. Hon. Ms. Vuniwaqa noted that land leases are also now being awarded to husbands and wives jointly to ensure equal rights to land and inheritance.

In addition to legally securing rights, Hon. Ms. Vuniwaqa noted the importance of community buy-in for changing norms of violence against women (VAW) that are entrenched in the society. By involving communities and community leaders, messages about VAW can be better accepted and implemented by communities themselves. Hon. Ms. Vuniwaqa also shared the experience of Fiji in implementing “Zero Tolerance Violence Free Communities” that involved anger management and other training and support to achieve violence-free communities. Interventions such as these must be targeted, culturally-sensitive, and age-sensitive.

Hon. Ms. Vuniwaqa noted that, in engaging men and boys to prevent VAW, target groups of men and boys, such as primary school boys and male youths, must be identified for training, support, and behaviour change. Strategic campaigners can reach out to these target groups to be the most effective advocates for change within that group. Involving “male champions” in disseminating the message of ending VAW can be challenging, but is often quite successful. Political leaders, like Fiji’s Prime Minister, can be some of the most influential champions in changing other men’s attitudes about the acceptability of VAW. Not only does the Prime Minister champion the cause of women and girls, but he also takes action, such as appointing the first female Speaker, and appointing women to other high government leadership positions. Hon. Ms. Vuniwaqa proudly recognized these efforts and the need to do more in order to continue the fight for women’s empowerment and gender equality in Fiji and around the world.

Panelist: Hon. Ms. Suwannee Sirivejchapun, MP Thailand



Hon. Ms. Suwannee Sirivejchapun (MP Thailand) noted the importance of engaging both men and women in achieving gender equality.

Hon. Ms. Sirivejchapun discussed the role of Parliamentarians in ending violence against women (VAW). Firstly, she noted that Parliamentarians can issue laws to protect women from violence. Secondly, she noted that they must actually make laws and suggest policies to the government that protect women from violence. In regard to legislation, Hon. Ms. Sirivejchapun pointed to the efforts of the Thai parliament in eliminating VAW. In 2007, they amended the criminal code to outlaw marital rape, and recently revised the civil code to provide for the right of both men and women to initiate divorce.

Hon. Ms. Sirivejchapun furthermore noted that the Thai Parliament also adopted a law providing special protection to the victims of domestic violence. This law requires bystanders to report domestic violence to the police. This law aimed to break the practice of keeping domestic violence as an entirely private affair. Although Parliament faced resistance about the law being incompatible with Thai culture, they persisted and have now found the law does encourage third party bystanders to report violence when they become aware of it.

Regarding human trafficking, Hon. Ms. Sirivejchapun noted the Thai Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, adopted in 2015, allows police greater and broader opportunities to investigate potential cases of trafficking. Furthermore, the penalties for trafficking have been increased significantly in the new law. Another recent law on gender equality, adopted last September, provides a mechanism to allow redress for women who believe they have been victims of discrimination on the basis of their gender.

Finally, Hon. Ms. Sirivejchapun noted the importance of appropriate budgetary allocations to policies that would end VAW. She noted that Thailand is in the process of drafting a new constitution, which is being done in collaboration with women's groups. In particular, these groups would like to see the inclusion of a clause on gender-responsive budgeting in the constitution. Although this is not a universally accepted idea, Hon. Ms. Sirivejchapun encouraged Parliamentarians to consider how they can be leaders in facilitating the incorporation of such principles into their constitutions and legislation. In fact, the constitution that was recently adopted by referendum reflects the requirement for gender-responsive budgeting. She also noted the role of Parliamentarians in monitoring the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting. She did note that many small business owners in Thailand are actually women, but this does not hold true in larger businesses. Accordingly, Hon. Ms. Sirivejchapun noted that women need encouragement, access to professional networks, and access to training and credit, in order to achieve their full economic potential. Where women are economically independent, Hon. Ms. Sirivejchapun noted that they will be less vulnerable to VAW.

In closing, Hon. Ms. Sirivejchapun noted the importance of achieving all the SDGs in order to achieve gender equality and eliminate VAW, which can only be done through engaging both women and men in achieving gender equality.

Panelist: Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Director General, South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)



Dr. Rinchen Chopel (Director General of the SAIEVAC) addressed the issue of violence against children, and the prevalence of child labor, child marriage and child trafficking in relation to gender equality.

Dr. Chophel first noted his role as the only male on his panel. In particular, he started with crediting the previous speaker's point in addressing SDG5 through addressing all the other goals. In this regard, Dr. Chophel provided key statistics about violence against children in the region. In particular, Dr. Chophel noted the prevalence of child labour, child marriage, and child trafficking in the region, which remain high and can implicate gender equality issues as well.

Dr. Chophel next shared the mission and objectives of SAIEVAC in addressing violence against children, including through responding to all forms of neglect and abuse, and reinforcing regional cooperation to end violence against children in South Asia. Dr. Chophel identified SAIEVAC's 5 thematic areas as child marriage, child labour, corporal punishment, sexual abuse and exploitation, and trafficking. Child participation remains a cross-cutting strategic approach in all of SAIEVAC's work. Dr. Chophel noted that SAIEVAC also takes a coordinating role in regional efforts to address various issues related to child protection, including child helplines, faith-based organizations, and other human rights issues.

In closing, Dr. Chophel encouraged participants to consider a child of any nation as a child of every nation. He also encouraged the possibility of convening a triangulation conference of legal, parliamentary, and policy approaches to child protection in Asia. He noted that incorporating data, legal interpretation, and political will to the discussion would bring the best strengths of all these agencies and actors together.

Chair's wrap-up

In concluding this session, Ms. Baqi noted that the following points arose from the discussion and could be included in the declaration and recommendations of the conference:

- The role of faith-based organizations in the fight against VAW;
- Culture and religion do not need to undermine the rights of women and girls;
- Engaging with community-based organizations to mobilize communities for the protection of women and girls;
- Engaging with men and boys;
- The importance of evidence and data to make the case for women's protection, and to reach out to fellow Parliamentarians;
- All the SDGs are relevant to women's protection and gender equality.

At this time, a brief presentation of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SAIEVAC and AFPPD was conducted.



Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont (MP Thailand and Secretary-General of AFPPD) and Dr. Rinchen Chophel (Director General of the SAIEVAC) presented the signed MOU between AFPPD and SAIEVAC.

SESSION 2: Ensuring Girls' and Women's Health Throughout Their Life Courses



Panelists and presenters from Session 2 included Members of Parliament from Tonga, Philippines, Nepal, Indonesia and Thailand.

Chair: Hon. Mr. Lord Fusitu'a, MP Tonga, Co-Chair, AFPPD Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

Video: Ensuring Girls' and Women's Health throughout their Life Courses
Case Study from the Briefing Cards [Women-Health #2&3; Youth-Health #1&2]

Presentation: Hon. Mr. Teodoro (Teddy) Baguilat, MP Philippines



Hon. Mr. Teddy Baguilat (MP Philippines and Vice-Chair of AFPPD) highlighted the importance of investing in the health and welfare of girls, noting that this investment is critical to poverty alleviation.

Hon. Mr. Baguilat raised the importance of addressing women's and girls' health throughout their life courses. He noted that a woman's health in adulthood is highly affected by her health in childhood. Hon. Mr. Baguilat also pointed out that the life cycle approach includes consideration of particular issues at each stage. As a healthy young baby is born after a healthy, full-term gestation, the same child will be

better able to fend off disease throughout childhood. The same goes for adolescence, young adulthood, and later life.

Hon. Mr. Baguilat called for pregnancy to be made safer. He also called on Parliamentarians to consider how they can grant women greater access to choices in their maternal services. Hon. Mr. Baguilat recognized that the neonatal period is a critical health period, where sudden infant deaths are highest. He also noted that most of these deaths occur in developing countries. Additionally, childhood is a critical period for health, where up to 70% of child deaths can be attributed to preventable causes. Hon. Mr. Baguilat also noted that other risky behaviours among adolescents, including drug and alcohol use and unprotected sex, can affect adolescent health. Accordingly, sexual and reproductive health are critical to incorporate in healthcare at the adolescent stage. Hon. Mr. Baguilat also noted that the elderly must be cared for as they often suffer increasingly complex health issues, and in particular, addressing their chronic disease and mental health issues will be important.

Hon. Mr. Baguilat pointed specifically to investing in the health and welfare of girls, noting that the health of girls and women is critical to poverty alleviation. Hon. Mr. Baguilat reported that the Philippines just put forth its priority legislation in favour of women and girls, where he is only one of two men championing those laws. Hon. Mr. Baguilat also hopes to see the Parliament pass a better divorce law, improve the anti-rape law and incorporate statutory rape, as well as adopt an anti-discrimination law. Hon. Mr. Baguilat also noted that the Philippines passed a reproductive health law in 2012, which has only been implemented as of last year due to an injunction filed by the Catholic Church.

Panelist: Hon. Mr. Bishma Adhikari, MP Nepal



Hon. Mr. Bishma Adhikari (MP Nepal) mentioned that the new constitution protects women from discrimination but enforcing legal frameworks is still a challenge in Nepal.

Hon. Mr. Bishma opened his remarks by noting the process of drafting the new constitution in Nepal as the culmination of the peace process in Nepal. Under Nepal's new constitution, Hon. Mr. Bishma pointed out that Nepal enjoys multi-party democracy, civil liberties, press freedom, an independent judiciary, and rule of law. The new constitution also guarantees freedom from all forms of discrimination and guarantees fundamental rights for all. In particular, Hon. Mr. Bishma noted that women's rights are specially protected in the new constitution and that women now have rights to all the same channels of social security as men.

Hon. Mr. Bishma also noted that the new constitution protects women from discrimination that had been perpetrated under the prior regime. At this time in Nepal, both the President and the Chief Justice are women. Hon. Mr. Bishma noted that the right to marry is now the right of the spouses, and Nepal actually has the highest minimum age for marriage in the whole region. Hon. Mr. Bishma also noted that Nepal does still fight against some other harmful practices, including child labour. However, he noted that the new constitutional framework protects children against other forms of abuse as well, and should also be the basis for giving adolescents' access to SRHR.

In closing, Hon Mr. Bishma noted that, although the legal framework for rights in Nepal is now strong, enforcement can still be a challenge. When new local officials are elected in Nepal, he expects enforcement of these rights improves.

Panelist: Hon. Ms. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, MP Indonesia, Chair of IFPPD



Hon. Ms. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah (MP Indonesia) spoke about her work with religious leaders including being a part of an “ustazas” movement that brings women religious leaders and teachers together.

Hon. Ms. Hasbullah introduced the island of West Nusa Tenggara in Indonesia. She explained that the island is 96% Muslim, despite being a short flight away from Bali, which is predominantly Hindu. Hon. Ms. Hasbullah spearheaded a study on health centres and health services available for women in Nusa Tenggara in order to determine the gaps and needs in women's health. For example, child marriage is still common in this part of Indonesia. In such a male-dominated society, Hon. Ms. Hasbullah has often found herself to be the only woman in many of these policy discussions. She has accordingly worked to establish her credibility at the community level so that everyone in her constituency, both men and women, can trust her.

One of the interest groups at the community level that Hon. Ms. Hasbullah works with are religious leaders. She noted that religion, and in particular Islam, can be a great force for good for women's health and empowerment and for gender equality. Although religious leaders tend to be predominantly be male, Hon. Ms. Hasbullah has been part of an “ustazas” movement bringing together women religious leaders and teachers as well. Hon. Ms. Hasbullah has also been part of engaging “young champions” to teach their peers about sexual and reproductive health (SRH). Their motto is to use three fingers to say: 1) no early marriage; 2) no free sex; and 3) no drugs. Additionally, the other two fingers can symbolize having

only 2 children. Through engaging communities and religious leaders, Hon. Ms. Hasbullah has urged Parliamentarians to recognize that they are also able to engage youth and change behaviour.

Panelist: Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand, Secretary-General AFPPD



Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont (MP Thailand and Secretary-General of AFPPD) highlighted the recent law adopted in Thailand on the prevention of adolescent pregnancy.

In ensuring women's and girls' health throughout their lives, Hon. Dr. Sirathranont highlighted the recent law adopted in Thailand on the prevention of adolescent pregnancy. He began by providing statistics about abortion rates among adolescents through the past decade. Hon Dr. Sirathranont noted that in fact girls aged 10-14 have historically had the highest rates of abortion of any age group of women in Thailand. The causes of these high rates of abortion in this age group could be due to lack of knowledge about reproductive health, lack of access to contraceptives, and social and cultural stigmas. Hon. Dr. Sirathranont also noted that sexuality education is not comprehensive in Thailand. He subsequently supported the passage of a CSE bill, which was adopted and eventually came into force in July of 2016.

According to the adolescent pregnancy law, an adolescent is defined as any person between 11-19 years of age. Hon. Dr. Sirathranont also noted that sexuality education includes learning about human development, personal relationships, sexual behaviour and health, and sexual diversity and equality. The adolescent pregnancy law gives adolescents rights to choose how their own sexuality and sexual health will be expressed and protected. The law also requires businesses to provide support to adolescents in realizing their SRHR. Hon Dr. Sirathranont pointed out that members of the Children and Youth Council are also recognized as critical to promoting and supporting SRHR among adolescents and preventing adolescent pregnancies.

In closing, Hon. Dr. Sirathranont noted that all countries share the problem of gender equality, so Thailand's experience with the adolescent pregnancy law might be useful to other countries as well. Although the issues and context in each country are particularized, he noted that we can nonetheless learn from one another's experiences.

Discussion:

During the discussion, Hon. Ms. Niki Rattle, the Speaker of the Parliament of the Cook Islands, asked how boys might be covered by the new Thai legislation on adolescent pregnancy. Hon. Dr. Sirathranont replied that the law would not actually penalize men or boys who impregnate adolescent girls, although Thailand does have a law on statutory rape.

Hon. Ms. Florentina da Conceição Pereira Martins Smith from Timor-Leste requested elaboration about the involvement of religious institutions given the predominantly more conservative religious beliefs about gender roles in their country. Hon. Ms. Hasbullah responded by noting that certain practices, including child marriage in some contexts, can be an issue of poverty in many ways. Lord Fusitu'a of Tonga also mentioned that men must be engaged and that culturally responsive solutions should be developed.

Hon. Ms. Florentina da Conceição Pereira Martins Smith also requested clarification on divorce laws, to which Hon. Mr. Bishma noted that it is typically more difficult for women to file for divorce than men.

Chair's wrap-up:

The Honourable Chair noted that the use of data to inform policies on women's health and women's empowerment came up many times during the session, and can be instructive to all countries in the world as they aim to improve women's and girls' health.

SESSION 3: Women’s Political Participation



Panelists and presenters from Session 3 included Members of Parliament from India, Kazakhstan, Tonga, New Zealand and Nepal.

Chair: Hon. Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP India

Video: Women’s Political Participation

Case Study from the Briefing Cards [Women-Participation #3; Youth-Participation #4]

Presentation: Hon. Ms. Gulmira Issimbayeva, Vice Speaker of the Lower House of the Parliament, Kazakhstan, Vice Chair of AFPPD



Hon. Ms. Gulmira Issimbayeva (Vice-Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament and Vice-Chair of AFPPD) highlighted that the number of women in leadership positions in Kazakhstan has doubled in the past ten years.

Hon. Ms. Issimbayeva opened by noting that women slightly exceed the number of men in the population in Kazakhstan and many other countries. However, although they are 52% of the population, they form only 40% of the country’s GDP. Kazakhstan’s President Nazarbayev has recognized the important role of women in the society, and has called for women to occupy at least 30-40% of power structures in Kazakhstan in the near future.

In the past 25 years, Hon. Ms. Issimbayeva noted that the necessary legal framework for gender equality in Kazakhstan has been established. The law on equal rights and the law on domestic violence prevention, as well as the gender equality strategy have been adopted. Kazakhstan has ratified all relevant international instruments as well. Hon. Ms. Issimbayeva also noted that the institutional framework for gender equality has been established at the national level, and Ministries have gender policies in place. Furthermore, she noted that a network of NGOs specializing in women's issues has also been developing.

Hon. Ms. Issimbayeva reported that recently, the share of women in parliament and civil service in Kazakhstan has been increasing. As for Parliament, the share of women has more than doubled in the past 10 years. She also noted that the number of women in leadership positions in the executive branch has doubled in the past 10 years. Furthermore, women outnumber men in the civil service, with a 55% share. Kazakhstan's ratings in various international rankings have been improving vastly in recent years as well, and Kazakhstan oversaw the creation of a gender position during its Chairpersonship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Hon. Ms. Issimbayeva further noted that, although Kazakhstan does not have gender quotas in Parliament, it does still have results. She attributed this to the fact that all citizens have equal rights and freedoms and women have the possibility to advance in society. Kazakhstan is currently working on further integrating the SDGs into its national policies, and Hon. Ms. Issimbayeva also encouraged the adoption of a strategic plan on gender equality in order to enact the policies adopted. Hon. Ms. Issimbayeva noted that, if gender equality can be achieved in such a diverse country as Kazakhstan, it can be achieved anywhere. She encouraged participants to recognize that women do not need mercy, but they need equal conditions and opportunities.

In closing, Hon. Ms. Issimbayeva recommended holding meetings and specialized panel sessions within the framework of other international parliamentary forums on gender issues. Furthermore, she recommended the creation of a network of women's organizations at the international level. Finally, she noted that Kazakhstan will host a large conference on green energy, and will host concurrent sessions on women as the energy of the future, encouraging other participants to consider how to engage gender issues in similar opportunities in the future.

Panelist: Hon. Ms. Akosita Lavulavu, MP, Tonga



Hon. Ms. Akosita Lavulavu (MP Tonga) spoke about the challenges in women's political participation in Tonga and called for a greater political will.

Hon. Ms. Lavulavu is currently the only woman serving in the Tongan Parliament, and is one of only 8 Tongan women who have ever served in parliament. Hon. Ms. Lavulavu noted that Tonga's constitution does support the participation of both men and women in parliament, and that parliament has noble and people's members. Furthermore, Hon. Ms. Lavulavu reported that Tonga's gender policy is brand new as of this year and does provide some framework for improving women's political participation.

However, in considering the reasons for the low levels of political participation, Hon. Ms. Lavulavu first noted that Tonga is strongly patriarchal, which discourages women from working outside the home or taking on leadership roles in the society. Hon. Ms. Lavulavu also noted that women lack the exposure, training, and opportunity to become Parliamentarians. Furthermore, she noted that women are not voting for women candidates. Hon. Ms. Lavulavu noted that political will to increase women's participation has only recently begun to grow. In 2014, Tonga provided a practice parliament for women, which was a positive step, but Hon. Ms. Lavulavu called upon the Tongan Parliament to do even more to pave the way for women's political participation. However, she acknowledged that adopting quotas or other constitutional frameworks to enhance women's participation can be cumbersome and require exceptional time and resources.

In addressing the lack of women's political participation in Tonga, Hon. Ms. Lavulavu called for greater political will: she is personally supporting a bill for reserved seats for women in Parliament. Furthermore, Hon. Ms. Lavulavu noted the obligation on Parliaments to adopt the government's budget, and to allocate more resources to gender issues. Finally, she called upon 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.

Panelist: Hon. Ms. Ria Bond, MP New Zealand



Hon. Ms. Ria Bond (MP New Zealand) highlighted the importance of encouraging young women to run for office and local leadership roles.

Hon. Ms. Bond presented on the participation of New Zealand women in parliament, and the challenges they face. New Zealand was the first country in the world to give women the right to vote in 1893. Hon. Ms. Bond also noted that women occupy a major role in New Zealand's government and have held all major positions. Since instituting a proportional system of parliament for voting shares by parties, women have increased their participation in parliament up to 31%. Although New Zealand does not

have a strict quota system, some political parties have a voluntary quota reaching nearly 50% participation by women. Hon. Ms. Bond reported that New Zealand also reserves seats for indigenous persons.

In considering policies to encourage women's political participation, Hon. Ms. Bond noted that women already outperform men in earning tertiary degrees in New Zealand. She also noted that New Zealand provides 18 weeks of paid maternity leave, and up to 52 weeks unpaid if a woman has been with her organization for at least a year. Hon. Ms. Bond reported that New Zealand also provides subsidies and tax credits for child care. Contraception is free in New Zealand, and the average age of women having children in New Zealand is 30 years.

In addressing the barriers that prevent women's full political participation in New Zealand, Hon. Ms. Bond noted that the gender pay gap exists, and that female-dominated fields tend to be lower paid than male-dominated fields. Hon. Ms. Bond also recognized that politics has historically been a male-dominated field and that men have made the rules in politics for years, which may exclude women from participating or even being interested. She noted that, before she ran for parliament, she was a hairdresser and faced a lot of criticism from politicians and others for becoming interested in politics given her background.

As for what other political leaders can do to improve women's political participation, Hon. Ms. Bond recommended they directly encourage young women to take interest in running for office, and work with women to encourage them to enter local leadership roles. She also recommended working with young women, perhaps in a youth parliament, to get them interested in government service from a young age. Hon. Ms. Bond also encouraged supporting women's caucuses, and supporting women in engaging with the media to develop a positive image of women in leadership roles.

Panelist: Hon. Ms. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay, MP Nepal, Co-Chair of the AFPPD Standing Committee on Investing in Youth



Hon. Ms. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay (MP Nepal and Co-Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Investing in Youth) noted that the Nepalese Parliament aims to increase women's political participation under the new constitutional regime.

Hon. Ms. Mahalaxmi noted the struggle of women in Nepal to achieve gender equality, involving many issues such as violence, poverty, patriarchy, discrimination, citizenship laws, and lack of fundamental

rights. Hon. Ms. Mahalaxmi also noted that women were excluded from the peace process, and had not been allowed to speak as much as men in the Nepalese parliament. In the 1991 constitution, women were given a reserve of just 5% of candidatures in parliamentary elections. However, all of these conditions were addressed in the 2007 Constitution, which has brought about a positive shift in the legal framework for women's protection and women's political participation in Nepal.

Hon. Ms. Mahalaxmi noted that the new Nepalese constitution guarantees 33% of seats for women in Parliament, and 40% of seats for women in local elections. She also reported that the new constitution guarantees leadership roles in the parliament for women as well. However, Hon. Ms. Mahalaxmi noted that gaps remain between women Parliamentarians and CSOs and the media, and women parliamentarians lack coordination and consolidation of their efforts to advance gender equality using those channels. Hon. Ms. Mahalaxmi also noted some of the specific issues some women Parliamentarians in Nepal have been fighting for, including laws on gender equality and entering political leadership. In closing, Hon. Ms. Mahalaxmi explained that the Nepalese Parliament aims to continue amending laws with a gender perspective, and increasing the level of participation of women in politics under the new constitutional regime.

Open discussion

Hon. Professor P.J. Kurien from India noted that women are not voting for women because women lack education on political matters. Regarding quotas, he noted that of course men will not naturally be in favour of giving up their seats, so quotas can be useful in this regard.

Hon. Mr. Osmonbek Artykbayev noted that, in Kyrgyzstan, the participation of women in politics is high. The ex-President of Kyrgyzstan was a woman. The Vice-Prime Minister is also a woman, and the Chief Justice is a woman, as well as other key ministers. Nonetheless, this is never enough until women's potential is fully realized in the political sphere. Hon. Mr. Artykbayev did take issue with the Tongan law on excluding disabled persons from Parliament, and Hon. Ms. Lavulavu agreed this provision of the constitution must be revisited.

In Mongolia, Hon. Mrs. Oyunchimeg Munkhuu reported successes of women in Parliament, having increased their representation from 13% up to 17%. She reported that in their fight for quotas in parliament, the previous parliament actually wanted to decrease the numbers. In the end, they maintained the quota in Mongolia, which was a significant step in reaffirming women's rights of political participation.

Hon. Ms. Rashdi from Pakistan noted that when women are selected to the reserved seats, they may not be qualified to take on the role. In order to give women the proper opportunities for experience and education from the start, political parties must also adopt women's rights causes and positions. She noted that women are the energy of the future, and of the past and present.

Hon. Ms. Gatoloifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow from Samoa noted that their parliament now has 10% of seats (5 seats in total) reserved for women. This constitutional amendment gave women confidence to be involved in parliamentary elections. In the last election, four women were elected outright, and the fifth was the only one picked as the next highest vote earning woman without being elected outright.

Hon. Ms. Asma Rasheed from the Maldives recommended that the initiative for women's participation come from the parliament itself. Although she herself fought to get into parliament, parliament has now adopted a gender equality bill. Although all party councils are currently dominated by men, this can also be improved.

Hon. Mr. Virgilio da Costa Hornai from Timor-Leste noted the quotas for women's participation in parliament and in the party rolls, setting the number at 30% in parliament, and also quotas for women in government. At local levels, advocacy and training activities resulted in great advances in women

participating at community levels as well. Nonetheless, Timor-Leste still hopes to find more strategies to improve women's political participation.

Rev. Prof. Vernie B. Compas from the Philippines asked why women's participation is so low in the countries represented by the panel, and questioned whether cultural, religious, psychological, education, or motivational reasons were to blame. The Chair cited patriarchy as the main reason, which may be changing with the advent of democracy and more equal access to education and opportunity, as well as women's economic emancipation.

Chair's wrap-up:

Hon. Mrs. Viplove Thakur wrapped up the session by noting that, although women's political participation is increasing, it is still lacking. She confirmed that, while we would look forward to the moment when we no longer need quotas, that time is not yet here.

SESSION 4: Women’s Economic Participation



Panelists and presenters from Session 4 included Members of Parliament from Australia, Japan, Bangladesh and Cambodia, as well as representatives from the Asia Foundation and the Women’s Foundation.

Chair: Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, MP Australia

Video: Women’s Economic Participation

Case Study from Briefing Cards [Women-Participation #2 & #4]

Presentation: Ms. Jane Sloane, Director of Women’s Empowerment Program, The Asia Foundation



Ms. Jane Sloane (Director of Women’s Empowerment Program at the Asia Foundation) highlighted eight strategies to increase women’s economic empowerment.

Ms. Sloane opened her remarks by noting that it may take over 1000 years to close the economic gender gap in South Asia unless efforts are accelerated. In closing the gap, bringing men into gender equality efforts is critical to the solution. Encouraging male mentors who champion women’s rights, and pairing men and women in professional mentorship relationships can create sustainable change.

In increasing women’s economic empowerment, Ms. Sloane identified the following eight strategies:

1. Strengthening women’s entrepreneurship skills. Women need to be encouraged to come into the IT field, women’s business centres must be created, and options for collateral-free loans for women must be further developed.
2. Facilitating public-private dialogues. Women must be involved in high-level forums, and an online speakers bureau for women could be created.
3. Leveraging women’s engagement with technology. Online forums to connect aspiring female entrepreneurs must be supported, webinars to build the capacity of women entrepreneurs can be conducted, and MPs can ensure an enabling legal and regulatory environment for women in business.
4. Focusing on young women’s economic participation. Pathways to increase women’s access to capital and training must be created, and young women must be engaged in financial literacy and entrepreneurship.
5. Supporting women’s networks and alliances. Women entrepreneurs in both the formal and informal economies must be supported through alliances, and regional and global alliances for women artisans can be further enhanced and resourced.
6. Ensuring effective implementation of laws and policies aiming to end violence and harassment in the workforce. When women feel safe at work, they can more fully participate in the economy.
7. Use procurement strategies to give preference to companies with women in leadership. Governments can give an additional preference to companies or bidders with women in key leadership positions, or to women-owned businesses.
8. Support and scale-up women’s funds. These funds can provide additional support and funding to programming that advances women’s rights and gender equality.

Ms. Sloane closed her talk by sharing a story about a female entrepreneur from Papua New Guinea who had a dream of starting a women’s microcredit bank. Although she faced a lot of opposition in her efforts, with some support, she was able to realize her dream and is now running for political office.

Presentation: Hon. Dr. Karen Makishima, MP Japan



Hon. Dr. Karen Makishima (MP Japan) spoke about the concept of “Womonomics” from Japan and addressed her country’s challenges in women’s economic participation.

Hon. Dr. Makishima opened her presentation by describing the concept of ‘Womenomics’ from Japan – the strategy of harnessing the economic potential of Japanese women. The three central pillars of the ‘Womenomics’ strategy are:

- Reducing the number of women who quit their jobs due to pregnancy and childrearing;
- Increasing the ratio of women in leadership; and
- Realizing women’s full potential.

Hon. Dr. Makishima shared some rationales for hiring women, which can include fairness and equality. However, hiring women can also be good for the bottom line, improving leadership decision-making and better reflecting the customer base. For example, Hon. Dr. Makishima shared a number of examples of specific ideas Japanese women developed for improving car design and household items based on their experiences as mothers and women.

Hon. Dr. Makishima also noted that Japan is one of the worst countries in the world for the gender gap (#111), according to the World Economic Forum. In Japan, many women do go to work right after finishing school, but they soon quit working after having a child due to social pressures and practical realities of long commute times and high costs of child care. Japan also only has 45 women out of 475 Parliamentarians in the lower house—156th in the world for percentage of women in parliament.

Hon. Dr. Makishima identified some of the problems Japanese women face in wanting to work in the formal sector. She noted that they face very long working hours, sometimes over 60 hours per week. Furthermore, less than 50% of Japanese workers take their annual leave. She noted that these factors have caused the birth rate to drop in Japan. Hon. Dr. Makishima reported that Japanese law does provide parental leave for both spouses, but only women tend to take the leave due to professional and social pressures. Japan has recently set a goal to see men take a more leading role at home in the housework and in childrearing, which may help ease the burden on women and encourage them to re-enter the economy. Hon. Dr. Makishima has also suggested creating new aesthetics for offices and new approaches for working hours and telework to encourage more women to work.

Panelist: Hon. Mr. Farhad Hossain, MP Bangladesh



Hon. Mr. Farhad Hossain (MP Bangladesh) highlighted the progress and challenges of women’s economic empowerment in Bangladesh including the need for social protection for women in the informal sector.

Hon. Mr. Hossain noted that Bangladesh has been increasing women’s economic participation in recent decades. However, he also noted that many Bangladeshi women are burdened by unpaid care work, and men do not yet have access to paternity leave to ease the burden of care for new-born children. Positively, women do have up to 6 months’ maternity leave. However, many women work in the informal economy. In particular, Hon. Mr. Hossain recognized the women in the informal sector need particularized social protection in order to be reached. He noted that over 60% of women in South Asia may not be covered by any form of social protection. Furthermore, Hon. Mr. Hossain explained that women’s participation in the economy is affected by how much they have to take on in the informal sector and in unpaid home care and housekeeping.

Hon. Mr. Hossain reported that women’s participation is now a cross-cutting issue in Bangladesh. He noted that stipends for girls for attending school may be helping to increase gender equality and girls’ school enrolment rates. He further reported that Bangladesh has actually been ranked highly for women’s participation, outperforming its neighbours on the Gender Inequality Index. Hon. Mr. Hossain also reported that Bangladesh has instituted destitute women’s allowances and allowances for mothers and other vulnerable groups. He further noted that for rural women, microcredit has been a major vehicle for development. Hon. Mr. Hossain also reported that many of the political leadership positions in Bangladesh are now occupied by women, and quotas have been instituted for women in government service, schools, and in certain other fields like nursing and ICT.

Panelist: Hon. Ms. Lork Kheng, MP Cambodia, AFPPD Treasurer



Hon. Ms. Lork Kheng (MP Cambodia and Treasurer of AFPPD) encouraged parliamentarians to take household composition and family dynamics into account in order to improve gender roles and gender norms.

After the Khmer Rouge regime devastated Cambodia, Hon. Ms. Kheng noted high levels of single mothers nationwide. At that point in the country’s history, the focus was on survival rather than on developing skills, education, or businesses. Hon. Ms. Kheng noted that Cambodia’s difficult history has meant less access to education for women, and less work outside of the home as the country was being rebuilt. In fact, Hon. Ms. Kheng reported that many Cambodian women are engaged in informal businesses, and they tend to be in a small number of sectors. The Cambodian government has recognized that sustainable economic opportunities for women can reduce their vulnerability and minimize migration and domestic violence, and so is now seeking to address these issues.

Hon. Ms. Kheng noted that Cambodia does have a number of policies in place to promote women’s economic participation. Men and women have equal rights before the law, and women have rights to own property. In fact, Hon. Ms. Kheng reported that, in order to register property, both the husband and wife have to sign the title deed for the land. However, Hon. Ms. Kheng warned that women face closing economic space in Cambodia, and continue to have low levels of participation in vocational training and low levels of literacy. Hon. Ms. Kheng reported that women also continue to face discriminatory employment contracts and employment practices as well.

In addressing these challenges facing women, Hon. Ms. Kheng encouraged parliamentarians to focus on the composition of the household and on family dynamics in order to improve gender roles and gender norms in favour of women’s advancement and achievement. Hon. Ms. Kheng noted that Parliamentarians can take a leading role in encouraging school enrolment and engaging in vocational training, as well as funding scholarships for disadvantaged girls to help women acquire the skills they need in order to enter the economy. In closing, Hon. Ms. Kheng noted that Parliamentarians must increase collaboration with line ministries and civil society organizations (CSOs) to address emerging issues in promoting women’s roles and participation in the society.

Panelist: Ms. Su-Mei Thompson, CEO, The Women’s Foundation, Hong Kong



Ms. Su-Mei Thompson (CEO of the Women’s Foundation) spoke about women entrepreneurship and the link between women’s jobs, technology and the increasing needs for STEM skills.

Ms. Thompson opened her remarks by noting that Asia has some of the lowest levels of women’s economic participation in the world, and that companies in Asia are less likely to provide flexible and part-time work opportunities. Furthermore, Ms. Thompson noted that Asian companies typically do not apply a gender lens to recruitment, or look for unconscious bias and other gender issues in their recruitment processes. Ms. Thompson warned that women’s jobs are particularly vulnerable to changes in technology, and she highlighted the increasing need for women to become more proficient in science and technology (STEM) skills.

As the CEO of The Women’s Foundation (TWF), Ms. Thompson works on empowering women in poverty, advancing women leaders, and challenging gender stereotypes. TWF has also connected women entrepreneurs with mentors and trained companies in gender sensitivity. TWF further works on improving girls’ interest in science and technology subjects in school. A recently produced TWF documentary called “She Objects” illustrates how gender stereotypes affect women’s advancement. Ms.

Thompson notes that, in the media, women are typically portrayed in female-dominated and low-skilled fields. Accordingly, TWF has conducted research on why girls are not pursuing STEM subjects, and has found that, to begin with, girls often do not have early positive experiences with STEM subjects. Furthermore, the research found that girls in co-ed schools are more likely to doubt their abilities in STEM subjects in particular. Finally, the research showed that girls respond to encouragement from parents and peers, but can also be profoundly affected by negative messages.

In closing, Ms. Thompson noted that TWF also focuses on women's entrepreneurship to promote women's technology skills that can be used by women entrepreneurs to advance their businesses. Women entrepreneurs have also reported that they are not taken seriously in the professional world, and they may lack the same experience and education as men. In this regard, TWF engages men in private sector leadership to be allies for gender equality.

Open discussion

Hon. Ms. Meruyert Kazbekova from Kazakhstan noted that business thinks less about gender and more about the bottom line, so being competitive and creating opportunities for women can be useful as it can be good for business. She would like to think of new ways to improve the business and trade between Thailand and Kazakhstan, and hear more from the panellists and from other countries about how they have increased the space for women in the economy from a practical standpoint.

Hon. Ms. Umme Kulsum Smrity from Bangladesh noted the need for Parliamentarians to raise issues of women's economic participation in their own countries. For example, in Bangladesh, the constitution and female political leadership have paved the way for women's economic participation.

Hon. Dr. Karen Makishima from Japan responded by noting that networking for women professionals can be critical for their continued growth and flourishing in the economy.

Hon. Mrs. Viplove Thakur from India asked panellists to consider how to actually convince men to give women business opportunities. Panellists replied with the importance of involving male champions as leaders for other men to encourage opening the space for women in the economy.

Hon. Ms. Maria de Fatima Correia Belo from Timor-Leste noted the link between domestic violence, poverty, and the economic dependency of women. Hon. Ms. de Fatima Correia Belo encouraged women parliamentarians to create their own groups and committees, in particular for budgeting, to ensure appropriate resources are allocated to women's needs and gender issues.

Hon. Mrs. Gulmira Kudaiberdieva, Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan agreed that the issue of women's economic empowerment is extremely important because it allows women to have independence. This economic independence can address many of the other challenges women face, such as violence, lack of access to education and healthcare, and other challenges as well. Women's economic participation will also pave the way for women's political participation.

Mrs. Do Thi Quynh Huong from the General Office for Population and Family Planning of the Ministry of Health in Vietnam shared that her country has promulgated a law and action plans on gender equality, as well as a national strategy on gender equality. Vietnam also has a female participation committee in parliament.

SESSION 5: Ensuring the Rights of the Vulnerable (In the Context of Migration and Climate Change)



Panelists and presenters from Session 5 included Members of Parliament from Kyrgyzstan, Tonga, Afghanistan and representatives from UNESCAP, the Interfaith Partnership for the Promotion of Responsible Parenthood and the Tsao Foundation.

Chair: Hon.Lord Fusitu’a, MP Tonga

Video: Ensuring the Rights of the Vulnerable

Case Study from Briefing Cards [Women-Participation #5]

Presentation: Mr. Paul Tacon, Social Affairs Officer, UNESCAP



Mr. Paul Tacon (Social Affairs Officer at UNESCAP) noted that migration due to climate change and conflict is becoming an increasing issue in which migrant women are particularly vulnerable.

Mr. Tacon opened his presentation by providing some key statistics about migration in Asia and the Pacific. Up to 60 million migrants came to Asia and the Pacific in 2015, and up to 98 million migrants went out from the region in the same year. Of these migrants, the highest percentage stay within the Asia-Pacific region, and those leaving the region tend to go to the Gulf countries.

In focusing on women migrants to and from the region, Mr. Tacon reported that up to 40% of women migrating out of the Asia-Pacific actually have tertiary education, and the main trend of female migration in and out of the region is for labour. He also noted that, despite some of the risks and dangers in migration for vulnerable women, migration can also be empowering for the women who are migrating. Even when male family members migrate, the women who stay behind can gain greater control and empowerment back at home.

Mr. Tacon reported that there are at least 50 million irregular migrants worldwide, and female migration can be irregular more often than male migration. Some countries place bans on female migration in an attempt to protect them, which can end up forcing them into irregular patterns. They can get into relationships with employers that are exploitative or with highly unequal bargaining power.

Migration due to climate change and conflict is also becoming an increasing issue, and women migrating for these reasons can be in more vulnerable circumstances than other migrants. However, there are not only climate *refugees*, but also migrants who can take a proactive strategy to expand economic opportunities and respond to changing circumstances due to climate change.

Mr. Tacon reported that international frameworks have already contributed greatly to improving the situation of migration – the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, the Colombo Process, and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, among others. Recently, the New York Declaration was adopted as a global compact on refugees and regular migration. Mr. Tacon also noted how the SDGs address the situation of female migrants. Goal 8.8 protects the rights of migrant workers and women in particular, and Goal 10.7 aims to facilitate regular migration.

In closing, Mr. Tacon noted some of the successful strategies employed by Asian countries in regularizing migration and protecting migrants. The Philippines has regularized and adopted procedures to protect migrant workers. The Republic of Korea allows recruitment of foreign workers through regularized processes with formal MoUs signed between the sending countries and the Korean government. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia has signed bilateral instruments or MoUs with a number of other Asian countries to regularize migration and protect migrant workers coming to Saudi Arabia.

Panelist: Hon. Mr. Osmonbek Artykbayev, MP Kyrgyzstan, Chair of National Committee of Kyrgyzstan on Population and Development



Hon. Mr. Osmonbek Artykbayev (MP Kyrgyzstan) stressed that trafficking, slavery and discrimination are among the challenges faced by women migrants.

Hon. Mr. Artykbayev opened his presentation by explaining the situation of migration in Kyrgyzstan. In Kyrgyzstan, more women tend to migrate than men. Since Kyrgyzstan's independence, many women have migrated. Mostly, migration is directed toward Russia for economic opportunities. Kyrgyz migrants typically spend 6 years or more in the second country, and are primarily motivated by poverty and unemployment.

Hon. Mr. Artykbayev noted that trafficking, slavery, and discrimination are some of the challenges facing women migrants. Migrants can also lose access to health services, education, and can face low wages and unequal bargaining power, with no ability to change their circumstances once they reach their host country. Hon. Mr. Artykbayev also noted that migrants might have integration problems in the host country. Children who are migrating with their parents may also face schooling issues, with integration or performance problems due to language and cultural barriers.

In fact, Hon. Mr. Artykbayev noted that Kyrgyzstan does not have an effective tool for providing protection and assistance to citizens who are migrating. Kyrgyzstan recently joined the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which has helped its citizens in increasing economic opportunities and trade. Hon. Mr. Artykbayev reported that Kyrgyzstan does have a law on labour migration and a law on combating trafficking, as well as a law on refugees. He also noted that Kyrgyzstan has joined 53 ILO conventions, which can help reinforce the protective legal framework for migrants in and from Kyrgyzstan.

Panelist: Hon. Ms. Sahira Sharif, MP Afghanistan



Hon. Ms. Sahira Sharif (MP Afghanistan) highlighted the need for increasing government support for refugees to come back to Afghanistan, including assistance in reintegration and employment plan upon return.

Hon. Ms. Sharif noted that Afghanistan's refugee problem began with the Russian invasion of Afghanistan and continues up to now. Due to security and corruption issues, youth in particular continue to migrate at high rates. Hon. Ms. Sharif noted that although the President of Afghanistan has been encouraging refugees to come back to Afghanistan to rebuild the country, he has been doing so without offering them any reintegration and employment plan upon their return. For example, the Ministry of Migration should be providing housing for every documented returning family, but cannot secure enough land to provide housing for all the returning refugees at this point. Furthermore, government job recruiting is plagued by corruption and nepotism, so returning migrants, especially youth, are without good job opportunities.

In closing, Hon. Ms. Sharif has called upon powerful countries not to use Afghanistan for its own goals, but to allow Afghanistan to grow and develop in its own way.

Panelist: Reverend Professor Vernie B. Compas, Executive Director, Interfaith Partnership for the Promotion of Responsible Parenthood (IPPRP), Philippines



Rev. Prof. Vernie B. Compas (Executive Director of IPPRP) spoke about online education programs as one solution example to help with reintegrating and repatriating migrant workers in the Philippines.

Rev. Compas opened his remarks by noting that migration in the Philippines has become a part of the culture. He further noted that many host countries manage to confiscate the passports of migrant workers, and might deport them without reason or counselling upon learning that the migrant has HIV/AIDS or other health issues. Some migrants who worked for companies that close down are subject to deportation and turn to sexual exploitation to earn enough money to cover their deportation fees.

Rev. Compas also reported that many migrants have difficulty accessing medical care, due to the cost or even lack of permission from the employer. The language barrier will also pose many difficulties for migrant workers, who may not be able to read or interpret their own employment contracts. Human trafficking is also common, and the south of the Philippines has become a “back door” for migrants going to Malaysia.

The Philippines has excellent policies and protections for migrants, including counselling, but they do need more protection, especially female domestic workers. One of the solutions developed by the Interfaith Partnership and Filnet has been to develop online educational programs for migrant workers, including leadership and management, as well as an SRH curriculum. These organizations have also facilitated Filipino caring programs for migrants who are terminated or trafficked, so that they can be cared for by other Filipino families living abroad. They also provide orientations for Filipino migrant youth transitioning back to the Philippines for their college education. These organizations also assist in reintegrating and repatriating migrant workers back to the Philippines.

Panelist: Ms. Susana Concorde Harding, Director, International Longevity Center, Tsao Foundation, Singapore



Ms. Susana Concorde Harding (Director of the International Longevity Center at Tsao Foundation) spoke about the challenges that older people face with migrant children.

Ms. Harding opened her remarks by explaining the goals of the Tsao Foundation in Singapore. The Tsao Foundation aims to support older men and women in staying in their own homes and living among their families into their older years. They also conduct research into the challenges older people might face when their children migrate.

Ms. Harding explained that some of the challenges older people with migrant children face is that they find themselves shifting their role from grandparents to substitute parents for their migrating children's children. Despite the burdens of care they take on, they may lack legal rights as guardians. This arrangement can also have a negative impact on the children because they have less support in school and with emotional and developmental issues than they might have if their parents were present as well. Elderly parents also receive less care themselves when one of their children migrates. Furthermore, elderly parents of migrating children often see very little financial gain as a result of the migration, and may suffer negative effects on their mental health.

Ms. Harding further explained that we value older people for their wisdom and the family values they can contribute even in the context of their children migrating and their changing lifestyles. Older people can also continue to be material and monetary supporters of their families. Older people may need more support in pursuing self-care and their psychological well-being, but an enabling and supportive policy and social environment can better address the specific needs of elderly parents whose children migrate.

Open discussion

Hon. Mr. Dorji Wangdi, MP from Bhutan noted that in Bhutan, national happiness depends on equity, justice, and harmony. Each of these factors is a necessary condition of the other. Equity includes opportunities for education, health, and employment for all, and migration can be considered in the context of these other factors.

Hon. Ms Viplove Thakur, MP from India, noted that people seem to migrate because of necessity, and questioned why it is considered to be 'culture.' Rev. Compas noted that many Filipinos enjoy traveling and seeing new places as well and many of them choose to migrate for those reasons.

Hon. Ms. Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana Gidlow, MP from Samoa, asked the panellist from the Philippines whether there was any data on what percentage of the population lives abroad. She was particularly concerned about the brain drain and care drain that affects the Pacific. Ms. Harding replied that the Tsao Foundation works with the families left behind by facilitating networks and support between those families. She also noted that more research was needed in this area because migration does not only affect people financially, but also emotionally. The panellists suggested that up to 10% of the Filipino population are migrants. Remittances in the Philippines reached almost \$30 billion last year.

Hon. Mrs. Ruqia Naiel, MP from Afghanistan, noted the on-going and active conflict in 7 provinces in Afghanistan, and the competing problem of endemic corruption in public and private institutions. She noted that corruption prevents qualified youth from seeking and finding good jobs. She also noted that the panellists' and participants' countries have a lot of common problems, but also have particularized issues, so these collaborative sessions can be helpful.

Hon. Ms. Gulmira Kudaiberdieva, Vice-Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, asked how migration issues impact families in particular. Rev. Compas noted that a lot of care in his organization does go toward the psychological impact of migration on those left behind, as well as on those migrating. He noted that children in particular develop behavioural problems due to the migration of their parents, and spouses can experience relationship problems as well. In light of the realization that migration has psychological impacts, some employers have begun to understand the importance of giving vacation to employees for the sake of their mental health. Ms. Harding also noted that the Tsao Foundation's research has begun to persuade her that the financial gain to be had through migration may not outweigh the psycho-social cost of migration. Hon. Mr. Artykbayev noted that migration does bring benefits as well as migrants gain new knowledge and have enriching cross-cultural experiences.

Ms. Zulfiya Barotova, Special Assistant to the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Tajikistan, noted that migrants can suffer health issues, and one out of five migrants has a serious health problem while living abroad. Ms. Harding agreed and noted that a lack of health insurance in the host country is a major problem for many migrants. The Philippines has been a strong advocate for health care protection for migrants. Although providing migrant workers with health coverage is not normally obligatory by law, Parliamentarians might be able to provide for better care for migrants through legislation.

Chair's wrap-up

Climate change and migration issues for women are paramount, and the reasons for migration are diverse. Bilateral agreements may be needed in some circumstances to address systemic issues facing migrants, and engagement with host countries and employers can help. It is also important to remember that migration affects those left at home, and has psychological impacts as well.

SESSION 6: Adoption of Parliamentarians’ Declaration and Commitments

Co-Chairs: **Hon. Ms. Niki Rattle**, Speaker of the Parliament, Cook Islands
Hon. Mr. Teodoro (Teddy) Jr. Baguilat, MP Philippines, AFPPD Vice Chair

Facilitator: **Dr. Mika Marumoto**, Executive Director, AFPPD



Hon. Ms. Niki Rattle (Speaker of Parliament, Cook Islands) and Hon. Mr. Teddy Jr. Baguilat (MP Philippines and Vice-Chair of AFPPD) co-chaired the session on the Declaration and Commitments, facilitated by Dr. Mika Marumoto (Executive Director of AFPPD).

Hon. Ms. Niki Rattle opened the session by going over major discussions points of each session, and reiterated the main theme of the 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference: Leaving No Girls and No Women Behind. Hon. Ms. Rattle encouraged participants to raise questions and concerns for debate, and asked them to consider how to act on these commitments in a practical way once they are back in their home countries. In particular, she focused on taking the new knowledge and energy gained at the conference, and translating that into commitments which become points of action. She encouraged the participants, as Parliamentarians, to consider legislative mechanisms to support these commitments, and not to let the new energy and knowledge from the conference be forgotten once they get home.

Hon. Mr. Baguilat read through the draft Statement of Commitment.

Hon. Ms. Rattle opened the floor for discussion and comments.

Proposed changes and additions to the Draft Statement of Commitment are as follows:

- Clarifying that abortion services, as part of the package of SRHR, would be advocated for and requested only in countries where abortion is legalized;
- Incorporating girls’ access to education, skills training, and social services as part of their holistic development;

- Regarding women’s political participation, making a specific commitment to increasing the number of women in legislative assemblies;
- Regarding women’s economic participation, ensuring that women of all age and socio-economic backgrounds are mentioned and represented in the declaration;
- Incorporating child-care provision as a mechanism through which women can be greater empowered to enter and stay in the workforce;
- Recognizing the specific effects of migration on the family members of migrating women who are left at home.

After this discussion, the participants agreed on the provisions and adopted the Statement of Commitment.



The 54 participating parliamentarians and ministers applauded the adoption of the Statement of Commitment at the end of the session.

CLOSING SESSION

Chair: Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director, AFPPD

Closing address: Ms. Anjali Sen, Regional Director, International Planned Parenthood Federation South Asia Regional Office (IPPF SARO)



Ms. Anjali Sen (Regional Director of IPPF SARO) provided closing remarks, noting that women are “the energy of the past, present, and future.”

Ms. Sen congratulated the conference participants on their achievements of the past two days. She noted that gender equality must be universal. She also noted that men must be partners in the fight for gender equality. She looked to women to change stereotypes and promote other women parliamentarians and leaders.

In the last gender gap report, it was reported that economic parity will take at least 81 years to achieve and political parity will take at least 50 years to achieve. Accordingly, women and girls must be at the centre of the 2030 agenda. In particular, impoverished women, and other vulnerable women are the most at risk. They are also often the primary caretakers of their families and communities. Although Asia has made significant advances in closing its gender gap, it is still one of the worst regions in the world for gender gap issues.

Ms. Sen called on Parliamentarians to be at the forefront of these changes. She encouraged more gender-responsive programmes and budgets, and a commitment to gender equality and gender financing. Investing in women and girls is essential, and all government ministries must work together to ensure fair distribution of resources to all, including women and girls. Gender equality is not an end in itself.

Ms. Sen explained that in the IPPF’s vision for the year 2020, they have put SRHR at the heart of sustainable development. Some action points from their vision relevant to the work of Parliamentarians are:

- Create a supportive and enabling environment so that SRHR and gender equality becomes a reality. SRHR should be included in national plans to ensure continued investment in SRHR. Parliamentarians must take up a strong focus on girls and on eradicating harmful traditional practices as well.

- Continue and increase the financial and political commitment to SRHR. Expand and increase possibilities for gender equality. Increase investments in the full range of SRHR, including rights-based family planning.
- Measure the things that matter. Fill knowledge gaps and collect robust data, including sex- and age-disaggregated data.
- Engage men and boys as partners in gender transformative change. CSOs, donors, and multi-lateral institutions must also be engaged.
- Take steps to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence through legislation, and through ensuring access to SRHR. These issues are of particular concern in fragile and conflict-affected communities.
- Continue and increase investment at the grassroots level to enhance women’s participation in social and public life.

Ms. Sen closed her remarks by echoing the call of many other presenters by noting that women are the energy of the past, present, and future.

Closing Address: Ms. Yoriko Yasukawa, Regional Director, UNFPA APRO



Ms. Yoriko Yasukawa (Regional Director of UNFPA APRO) commended the Statement of Commitment and highlighted that gender-responsive budgeting is critical for the future of gender equality.

Ms. Yasukawa first congratulated the attendees for the progressive nature of the Statement of Commitment adopted in the previous session. She noted that this Statement of Commitment signified a significant step in forging a unified vision for women’s empowerment and gender equality. In such a diverse region, this type of progressive, rights-based Statement speaks strongly about the commitment of all countries to women’s empowerment and gender equality.

Ms. Yasukawa also noted that the SDGs seek to bring all spheres of life together, in order to achieve a life of dignity for all people. The SDGs represented negotiations of diverse actors and represent broad ownership from government and inter-governmental partners, as well as civil society. The SDGs and the Statement of Commitment from this conference are also important steps in resisting the trends of violence and extremism. However, even more women should be encouraged to enter leadership positions. In closing, Ms. Yasukawa noted that gender-responsive budgeting and dedicating the proper budget to women’s empowerment, health, and education will be critical to the future of gender equality.

Closing Address: Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand, Secretary-General AFPPD



Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont (MP Thailand and Secretary-General of AFPPD) thanked and encouraged the participants to further their efforts of leaving no girls and no women behind.

Hon. Dr. Sirathranont thanked the participants for making the conference productive. He noted that the conference focused on the goal of leaving no girls and no women behind. He also reminded participants of the statement made by many participants throughout the conference, that the achievement of Goal 5 on gender equality is critical to the achievement of all the goals. In line with Goal 5, eradicating harmful traditional practices must be prioritized. Furthermore, SRHR should be central in all policies. Keeping girls in school will also be important to the girl's access to all her other rights later in life as well. Adopting quotas for parliament and executive positions can be a way to bring more women into political leadership. Bringing women into full participation in the economy through enabling legislation and proper support must also be prioritized. Finally, migration actually highlights the needs of the most vulnerable women.

In closing, Hon. Dr. Sirathranont encouraged the participants to take the agreements they made in the Statement of Commitment back to their parliaments and their home countries to ensure change and enhancement to the rights of women and girls in each of their countries. He also encouraged them to find allies in their parliaments in order to further their efforts of leaving no girls and no women behind.

ANNEX

Annex: Table of Content

Content	Page
Annex 1: Agenda of Conference	46
Annex 2: List of Participants	50
Annex 3: Past Statements of Commitment	54
Annex 4: Statement of Commitment	58
Annex 5: Media Coverage	64
Annex 6: Briefing Cards	76
Annex 7: Evaluation of Conference	77
Annex 8: Presentations and Speeches	84

Annex 1: Agenda of Conference

AGENDA	
Wednesday 2 November	
AFPPD Executive Committee Members and Standing Committee Co-chairs Arrive	
Thursday 3 November	
09:00 – 16:00	AFPPD 81st Executive Committee Meeting (Note: Standing Committee Co-chairs will be invited to attend as observers)
Conference Participants Arrive	
Friday 4 November	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:35	Opening Session Chair ➤ Ms. Mika Marumoto , AFPPD Executive Director (5 min.) ➤ Welcome address by Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi , AFPPD Chairperson (10 min.) ➤ Welcome address by Ms. Lubna Baqi , Deputy Regional Director, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO) (10 min.) ➤ Welcome address by H.E. Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai , President of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand (10 min.)
09:35 – 10:30	Plenary Session: Chair ➤ Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi , AFPPD Chairperson (5 min.) Video: The 1 st ~ 10 th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conferences (5 min.) Keynote addresses: ➤ Ms. Gulmira Kudaiberdieva , Vice Prime Minister, Kyrgyzstan (10 min.) ➤ Hon. Mr. Adérito Hugo da Costa , President of the Parliament, Timor-Leste (10 min.) ➤ Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni , Speaker of the Parliament, Fiji (10 min.)
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Group Photo; Coffee/Tea Break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Session 1: Women’s Empowerment: Elimination of Violence Against Women Chair (5 min.) ➤ Ms. Lubna Baqi , Deputy Regional Director, UNFPA APRO Video: Case Study from Briefing Cards [Women-Safety&Security #1; Youth-Safety&Security #2] (5 min.) Inspirational Speaker: ➤ Ms. Brooke Axtell , Director of Communications and Survivor Leadership, Allies Against Slavery (15 min.) Presentation: ➤ Ms. Ingrid Fitzgerald , Technical Adviser, Gender and Human Rights, UNFPA APRO (15 min.)

AGENDA

	<p>Panel (20 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Ms. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi, MP Pakistan ➤ Hon. Ms. Mereseini Vuniwaqa, MP Fiji, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation ➤ Hon. Ms. Suwannee Sirivejchapun, MP Thailand ➤ Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Director General, South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children <p>Open discussion (25 min.)</p> <p>Chair’s wrap-up (5 min.)</p>
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Luncheon</i>
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Session 2: Ensuring Girls’ and Women’s Health throughout their Life Courses</p> <p>Chair (5 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Mr. Lord Fusitu’a, MP Tonga, Co-Chair, AFPPD Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment <p>Video: Case Study from the Briefing Cards [Women-Health #2&3; Youth-Health #1&2] (5 min.)</p> <p>Presentation (15 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Mr. Teodoro Jr. Baguilat, MP Philippines, AFPPD Vice Chair <p>Panel (40 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Mr. Bishma Adhikari, MP Nepal ➤ Hon. Ms. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, MP Indonesia, Chair of IFPPD ➤ Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand, Secretary-General AFPPD <p>Open discussion (20 min.)</p> <p>Chair’s wrap-up (5 min.)</p>
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	<p>Session 3: Women’s Political Participation</p> <p>Chair (5 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP India <p>Video: Case Study from the Briefing Cards [Women-Participation #3; Youth-Participation #4] (5 min)</p> <p>Presentation: (15 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Ms. Gulmira Issimbayeva, Vice Speaker of the Lower House of the Parliament, Kazakhstan, Vice Chair of AFPPD <p>Panel (40 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Ms. Akosita Lavulavu, MP, Tonga ➤ Hon. Ms. Ria Bond, MP New Zealand

AGENDA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Ms. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay, MP Nepal, Co-Chair of the AFPPD Standing Committee on Investing in Youth <p>Open discussion (20 min.) Chair's wrap-up (5 min.)</p>
18:00	<i>Dinner Reception</i>
20:00	<p>Drafting Committee Meeting</p> <p>Co-Chairs of the Drafting Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Ms. Niki Rattle, Speaker of the Parliament, Cook Islands ➤ Hon. Mr. Teodoro Jr. Baguilat, MP Philippines, AFPPD Vice Chair
Saturday 5 November	
09.00 – 10.30	<p>Session 4: Women's Economic Participation</p> <p>Chair (5 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, MP Australia <p>Video: Case Study from Briefing Cards [Women-Participation #2 & #4] (5 min.)</p> <p>Presentation (25 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Jane Sloane, Director of Women's Empowerment Program, The Asia Foundation ➤ Hon. Dr. Karen Makishima, MP Japan <p>Panel (30 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Mr. Farhad Hossain, MP Bangladesh ➤ Hon. Ms. Lork Kheng, MP Cambodia, AFPPD Treasurer ➤ Ms. Su-Mei Thompson, CEO The Women's Foundation, Hong Kong <p>Open discussion (20 min.) Chair's wrap-up (5 min.)</p>
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
11.00 – 12.30	<p>Session 5: Ensuring the Rights of the Vulnerable (in the context of migration and climate change)</p> <p>Chair (5 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Mr. Lord Fusitu'a, MP Tonga, Co-Chair, AFPPD Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment <p>Video: Case Study from Briefing Cards [Women-Participation #5] (5 min)</p> <p>Presentation (15 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Paul Tacon, Social Affairs Officer, UNESCAP <p>Panel (35 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Mr. Osmonbek Artykbayev, MP Kyrgyzstan, Chair of National Committee of Kyrgyzstan on Population and Development ➤ Hon. Ms. Sahira Sharif, MP Afghanistan

AGENDA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rev. Prof. Vernie B. Compas, Executive Director, Interfaith Partnership for the Promotion of Responsible Parenthood, Philippines ➤ Ms. Susana Concardo Harding, Director, International Longevity Center, Tsao Foundation, Singapore <p>Open discussion (25 min.) Chair's wrap-up (5 min.)</p>
12.30 – 13.30	<i>Luncheon</i>
13.30 – 15.30	<p>Session 6: Adoption of Parliamentarians' Declaration and Commitments</p> <p>Co-Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Ms. Niki Rattle, Speaker of the Parliament, Cook Islands ➤ Hon. Mr. Teodoro Jr. Baguilat, MP Philippines, AFPPD Vice Chair
15.30 – 16.00	<p>Closing Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Anjali Sen, Regional Director, International Planned Parenthood Federation South Asia Regional Office (IPPF SARO) ➤ Ms. Yoriko Yasukawa, Regional Director, UNFPA APRO ➤ Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand, Secretary-General AFPPD
Sunday 6 November	
	Participants Depart

Annex 2: List of Participants

11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference

4-5 November 2016 | Bangkok, Thailand

List of Participants

MEMBERS/SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT AND MINISTERS

1. Afghanistan

Hon. Mrs. Ruqia Naiel, MP

Hon. Mrs. Sahira Sharif, MP

2. Australia

Hon. Mrs. Ann Sudmalis, MP

Acting Chair, Australian PGPD

3. Bangladesh

Hon. Mr. Farhad Hossain, MP

Hon. Ms. Umme Kulsum Smrity, MP

4. Bhutan

Hon. Mr. Karma Tenzin, MP

Chair of National Committee of Bhutan on
Population and Development

H.E. Mr. Dorji Wangdi, MP

5. Cambodia

H.E. Mrs. Lork Kheng, MP

Treasurer of AFPPD

H.E. Ms. Chanmony Ker, MP

6. Cook Islands

Hon. Ms. Niki Rattle

Speaker of Parliament

7. Fiji

Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni, MP

Speaker of Parliament

Hon. Ms. Mereseini Vuniwaqa, MP

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty
Alleviation

8. India

Hon. Professor P.J. Kurien, MP

Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

Chair of IAPPD

Vice-Chair of AFPPD

Hon. Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP

9. Indonesia

Hon. Ms. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, MP

Chair of IFPPD

Hon. Drs. Ayub Khan, MP

10. Iran

Hon. Ms. Parvaneh Salahshori, MP

Hon. Ms. Seyedeh Fatemeh Zolghadr, MP

11. Japan

Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi, MP

Chair of AFPPD

Co-Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on
Active Ageing

Hon. Dr. Karen Makishima, MP

12. Kazakhstan

Hon. Ms. Gulmira Issimbayeva, MP

Vice Speaker of Lower House of Parliament
Vice-Chair of AFPPD

Hon. Ms. Meruyert Kazbekova, MP

13. Kyrgyzstan

Hon. Ms. Gulmira Kudaiberdieva

Vice-Prime Minister

Hon. Mr. Osmonbek Artykbayev, MP

Chair of NCKPD

Hon. Ms. Alfiia Samigullina, MP

14. Maldives

Hon. Ms. Asma Rasheed, MP

15. Mongolia

Hon. Mrs. Oyunchimeg Munkhuu, MP

Hon. Ms. Tsogzolmaa Tsedenbal, MP

16. Myanmar

Hon. Ms. Shwe Sein Latt, MP

H.E. Dr. Khin Nyo, MP

17. Nepal

Hon. Ms. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay, MP

State Minister of Water Resource

Chair of NFPPD

Co-Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Investing in Youth

Hon. Mr. Bishma Nath Adhikari, MP

Hon. Mr. Ram Hari Subedi, MP

18. New Zealand

Hon. Ms. Ria Bond, MP

19. Pakistan

Hon. Ms. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi, MP

20. Philippines

Hon. Mr. Teddy B. Baguilat, MP

Vice-Chair of AFPPD

21. Samoa

**Hon. Ms. Gatoloaifaana Amataga Alesana
Gidlow, MP**

22. Sri Lanka

Hon. Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle, MP

Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Research

**Hon. Mrs. Sriyani Wijewickrama
Radampala Gamage, MP**

Hon. Mrs. Rohini Kumari Wijerathna, MP

23. Thailand

**H.E. Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai,
MP**

President of the National Legislative
Assembly

Hon. Gen. Podok Bunnag, MP

Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP
Secretary-General of AFPPD

Hon. Ms. Suwannee Sirivejchapun, MP

24. Timor-Leste

H.E. Mr. Adérito Hugo da Costa, MP

President of the Parliament

Hon. Ms. Anastasia da Costa Amaral, MP

**Hon. Ms. Maria de Fátima Correia Belo,
MP**

Hon. Ms. Maria Rosa da Camara, MP

Hon. Mr. Virgilio da Costa Hornai, MP

Hon. Ms. Bendita Moniz Magno, MP

**Hon. Ms. Florentina da Conceição Pereira
Martins Smith, MP**

25. Tonga

Hon. Lord Tu'ivakano, MP

Speaker of Parliament

Hon. Lord Fusitu'a, MP

Co-Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on
Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

Hon. Ms. Akosita Lavulavu, MP

RESOURCE PERSONS

Ms. Brooke Axtell

Director of Communications and Survivor
Leadership, Allies Against Slavery

Ms. Lubna Baqi

Deputy Regional Director, UNFPA Asia and
the Pacific Regional Office

Ms. Kamma Blair

Program Officer, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific
Regional Office

Dr. Rinchen Chopel

Director General, South Asia Initiative to
End Violence Against Children

Rev. Prof. Vernie B. Compas

Executive Director, Interfaith Partnership
for the Promotion of Responsible
Parenthood, Philippines

Ms. Ingrid Fitzgerald

Technical Advisor, Gender and Human Rights, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office

Ms. Susana Concorde Harding

Director, International Longevity Centre Singapore, Tsao Foundation

Ms. Hadley Rose

Consultant, USA

Ms. Anjali Sen

Regional Director, South Asia, International Planned Parenthood Federation

Ms. Jane Sloane

Director of Women's Empowerment Programme, The Asia Foundation

Mr. Paul Tacon

Social Affairs Officer, UNESCAP

Ms. Su-Mei Thompson

CEO, The Women's Foundation, Hong Kong

Ms. Yoriko Yasukawa

Regional Director, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office

**PARLIAMENTARY, NATIONAL
COMMITTEE, GOVERNMENT AND
EMBASSY STAFF**

Bangladesh

Mr. Mohammad Tarequzzaman

Assistant Private Secretary to the Speaker of Parliament

Cambodia

Ms. Mith Chanlinda

Officer, Cambodian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Fiji

Ms. Jeanette Emberson

Secretariat Staff, Parliament of Fiji

India

Mr. Manmohan Sharma

Executive Secretary, Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Japan

Mr. Yoshiharu Makino

Assistant to Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi

Kazakhstan

Mr. Anuar Akhmetov

Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of Kazakhstan

Ms. Botagoz Botabayeva

Chief Consultant, Department of International Relations and Protocol, Parliament of Kazakhstan

Mr. Yerlan Zhetybayev

First Secretary, Embassy of Kazakhstan

Kyrgyzstan

Ms. Zarina Babaliev

Staff, International Relations Department, Government of Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Kushtarbek Shamshidov

Third Secretary, Embassy of Kyrgyzstan in Malaysia

Lao PDR

Mr. Somphet Bounnaphol

Director General, Lao Women Information Department

Ms. Bounleua Chanthaphomma

Deputy Director General, Counseling and Protection Centre for Women and Children, Lao Women's Union

Mr. Bounlert Louanedouangchanh

Director, Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

New Zealand

Ms. Viktoria Chamberman

International Programmes Officer, Family Planning New Zealand/NZPPD

Tajikistan

Ms. Zulfiya Barotova

Special Assistant to the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament

Timor-Leste

Ms. Lina Fatima Baptista

Technical Staff, Parliament of Timor-Leste

Ms. Francelina Vitória Guterres
National Gender Adviser, Parliament of
Timor-Leste

Mr. Amandio de Sa Benevides
Adviser for the President of the Parliament

Mr. John M. Pile
UNFPA Timor-Leste

Ms. Umbelina Rodrigues
UNFPA Timor-Leste

Tonga

Ms. Loupua Kuli
Parliamentary Researcher and Secretary,
Parliamentary Council on Population and
Development

Vietnam

Mrs. Tran Thi Bich Hang
Viet Nam National Union of Health Workers

Mrs. Do Thi Quynh Huong
General Office for Population and Family
Planning

OBSERVERS

Ms. Bhasrah Boonyarithi
Program Assistant, The Asia Foundation

Ms. Neha Chauhan
Programme Specialist-Advocacy, IPPF SARO

Mr. Roy Wadia
Communications Adviser, UNFPA Asia and
the Pacific Regional Office

Ms. Arpaporn Winijkulchai
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, The Asia
Foundation

H.E. Mr. Marat Yessenbayev
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative
to ESCAP, Kazakhstan

AFPPD

Dr. Mika Marumoto
Executive Director

Ms. Seema Gaikwad
Policy Research and Advocacy Advisor

Ms. Olesya Kochkina
Program Specialist – Central Asia

Ms. Salima Kasymova
Program Specialist

Ms. Pornprapas Sappapan
Administration Manager

Mr. Anake Lekoon
Accounts Manager

Ms. Madevi Sun-Suon
Special Assistant to the Executive Director

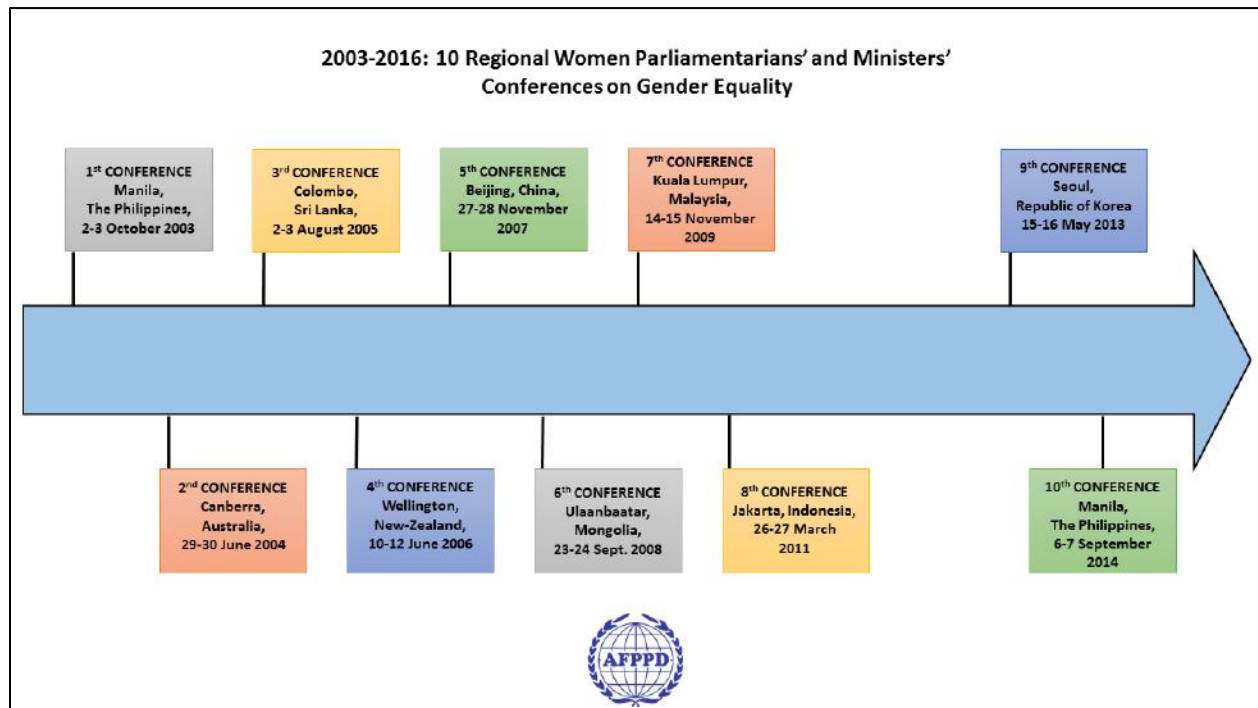
Ms. Jirapa Rerkphongsri
Account Officer

Mr. Warachin Phani
Administrative Assistant

Ms. Rampai Wannasri
Office Assistant

TOTAL:	105
MPs/Speakers/Ministers:	54
(Only MPs: 52)	
Male: 17	Female: 37
Resource Persons: 13	
Parliamentary/National Committee	
Government/Embassy Staff: 23	
Observers: 5	
AFPPD Staff: 10	

Annex 3: Past Statements of Commitment



2003-2016: 10 Declarations and Statements of Commitments on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
KEY COMMITMENTS

2nd Conference (2004): Canberra Declaration

Equality and Equity and the Empowerment of Women - Participants called on countries to:

- increase **women's participation and representation** in political, economic and public life
- promote **women's education**, skill development and employment
- eliminate **discrimination against women** at the workplace, in accessing credit and in controlling property and social security
- develop measures to **lessen the burden of domestic responsibilities**
- give **particular attention to older women** by taking measures to promote their income security and provision of social services including health care
- ensure the **safety and rights of female international migrant workers** and to strengthen legal measures to combat trafficking in humans

Elimination of All Kinds of Violence Against Women - Participants called on countries to:


- sign the **CEDAW**
- urge the development of responsible, appropriate and culturally sensitive **media guidelines for the reporting and editorializing of sexual violence**

Reproductive Health and Control of Fertility - Participants called on countries to:

- assure the right of men and women to be informed and to have **access to SRHR**
- adopt gender sensitive policies and programmes to prevent the spread of STI and HIV/AIDS and increase the use of contraception

The participants called on countries to **review their progress**.

The participants **urged the AFPPD** to promote programs for the **education of male parliamentarians on gender issues**, population, development and SRHR.



**2003-2016: 10 Declarations and Statements of Commitments on
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
KEY COMMITMENTS**

4th Conference (2006): Wellington Declaration

The participants committed individually, and collectively, to raise awareness on women's issues, such as:

Equality and Equity and the Empowerment of Women:

- increased opportunities for leadership and **representation of women and supporting young women** in political and public life
- paying significant attention to the needs and participation of **rural women**
- developing a **women's parliamentary caucus**, or strengthening its role where they already exist
- implementation of the **UN convention and protocols and anti-trafficking laws**
- **proactive policies** to prevent sex selection, child marriage, human trafficking, fake marriage and forced labour

Reproductive Health:

- **involving young people in education** on sexual and reproductive health
- implementing **comprehensive health, education and information strategies** related to sexual and reproductive health, and other issues such as drug use

Monitoring and Report:

- improved **access to current sex-disaggregated data**, setting of **benchmarks** by which progress can be measured (MDG indicators and targets)
- use of **gender analysis in planning of policies** development of specific cross-government women's action plans

AFPPD was asked to support the parliamentarians in:

- the **collection and distribution of research, data and practical tools** related to women's health, wellbeing and participation in governance
- the development of a **political mentoring scheme** for women in governance and **providing support to women parliamentarians**



**2003-2016: 10 Declarations and Statements of Commitments on
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
KEY COMMITMENTS**

5th Conference (2007): Beijing Statement of Commitment

The participants committed to:

Equality and Equity and the Empowerment of Women:

- reviewing the **status of women** at all levels of education and reviewing legislation and policies accordingly
- ensure that **education for women and girls** is incorporated into mainstream programs designed to address issues affecting girls and women, as well as those affecting the broader society and which leads to economic and social development of our nations
- support **education programs that are created to address harmful attitudes** in society which disempowering women and girls
- call on governments to make it **illegal to participate in any way in human trafficking**
- scale up our advocacy efforts to **create an enabling environment in society for women and girls** to enjoy equal status, and education and employment opportunities
- ensure that **resources are mobilized** to support enhanced education of women and girls

Reproductive Health:

- facilitate the development of **innovative education responses** to ensure that families affected by HIV/AIDS and conflict have equal access to education

Monitoring and Report:

- monitoring, evaluating and reporting on implementation



**2003-2016: 10 Declarations and Statements of Commitments on
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
KEY COMMITMENTS**

6th Conference (2008): Ulanbaatar Statement of Commitment

The participants committed to ensuring adequate attention and concrete policy actions and recommendations to ensure the following strategic actions to ensure MDG achievement by 2015 or sooner:

MDGs implementation, monitoring and report:

- relevant and required support for MDG-consistent national development strategies, plans and budgets
- evidence based costing requirements for financing MDGs
- improved financial planning and management
- **enhancing the capacity of national logistical systems to deliver timely and quality health commodities, essential drugs and other supplies**
- **mainstream gender equality in all MDGs**
- ensure financial adequacy for MDG achievement
- ensure that enacted laws and policies are implemented and funded
- institute measures to make governments more accountable for positions or decisions taken at international meetings
- examine the ratio of international and external assistance for MDGs and monitor their utilization
- refine country specific MDG targets and indicators

➤ intensify and **strengthen collective efforts** to ensure that by 2015, there will be **less poverty** in the world, **fewer people who are uneducated and hungry**, and that through **universal access to reproductive health services, no mothers will die giving life**, and **less people infected by HIV/AIDS**.



**2003-2016: 10 Declarations and Statements of Commitments on
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
KEY COMMITMENTS**

7th Conference (2009): Kuala Lumpur Statement of Commitment

The participants committed to:

Equality and Equity and the Empowerment of Women:

- give **support to national development strategies**, plans and budgets that promote gender equality, equity and the empowerment of women
- develop **policies that recognize** and respond in a timely manner to **emerging priority concerns which primarily affect women**
- **publicly speak out against all forms of discrimination and violence** against women and girls
- strengthen and sustain initiatives to **reduce the gender gap** in education, political participation, and employment for women
- formulate policies to **promote greater male involvement, understanding and participation** in improving gender equality and empowerment of women

Reproductive Health:

- improve financial planning and management to ensure **effective distribution and utilization of scarce resources for women's health**, reproductive health and prevention of violence against women
- enhance the capacity of national logistical systems to **deliver timely and quality health**, commodities, essential drugs and other supplies
- recognize the urgent **need to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic** and ensure that all possible measures are taken to prevent the spreading of HIV and that all people living with HIV/AIDS will receive proper treatment and care
- mobilize support for legislation, regulation and funding for comprehensive reproductive health services, including **acceptable and affordable family planning**, and for women to have **services that enable them to go safely through pregnancy**, delivery and post partum period, **or a safe abortion**



**2003-2016: 10 Declarations and Statements of Commitments on
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
KEY COMMITMENTS**

9th Conference (2013): Seoul Statement of Commitment

The participants committed themselves to ensuring adequate attention and the following strategic parliamentarians' actions:

Equality and Equity and the Empowerment of Women:

- promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through the **adoption and implementation of appropriate legislation**, review of existing legislation and **mobilize strong support for laws and policies that are in line with ICPD agenda**
- raise awareness of the need to **increase women representation in Parliament** and ensure the implementation of programs that increase women's participation in decision-making processes and other leadership activities
- support the **engagement of men, boys and families** in preventing and condemning violence against women and girls, and develop appropriate policies to promote the responsibility of men and boys in preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls
- ensure **universal access to appropriate services**, including sexual and reproductive health services, **for all victims/survivors of gender-based violence**

Reproductive Health:

- ensure that the **universal access** to quality, comprehensive and integrated **sexual and reproductive health information and services** including sexuality education, maternal health, new born and child health, family planning, elimination of gender harmful practices are **included as an integral part of legislation, policy, programs** and are adequately resourced

Monitoring and report:

- monitor the **implementation of gender-related laws and policies**, advocate for targets, and **hold governments accountable**
- monitor the Commitments that were made by Governments at the Family Planning Summit in 2012



**2003-2016: 10 Declarations and Statements of Commitments on
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
KEY COMMITMENTS**

10th Conference (2014): Manila Statement of Commitment

The participants:

Equality and Equity and the Empowerment of Women:

- committed to **increase awareness of gender equality and rights of women and girls** among policymakers and civil service officials and the media in order to strengthen capacity and political will to address in a coordinated and cross-sectoral manner the root causes of gender inequality
- committed to **advocate for increased voice and participation of women** in governance through effective and equitable quota allocations
- committed to eliminate inequality and protect the rights of the girl child by **ending child marriage** and the implementation of national laws adheres to international legal and human rights frameworks including the establishment and **best practice maintenance of civil registration systems**
- committed to advocate for **action to address the heightened vulnerability of women and girls exposed** to growing wars, conflicts and humanitarian emergencies including natural disasters and climate change
- acknowledged the economic and social costs of not achieving gender equality and social inclusion
- committed to **ensure that women and men parliamentarians are informed** and equally engaged in the regional and global partnership for sustainable development and that effective partnerships with civil society and the media

Monitoring and report:

- committed to **act to strengthen national statistical offices** and systems to produce reliable and comparable gender statistics and data
- committed to **build the capacity of policymakers** to interpret and use available data to inform policy, programming and planning decisions

➤ asserted that this process must strengthen the way forward and reinforce the commitment made in March 2014 at the UN Commission on the Status of Women for a **stand-alone goal on gender equality and gender mainstreaming across all the sustainable development goals** and a solid commitment within a human rights framework



Annex 4: Statement of Commitment

11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference

Ensuring Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment from a Life-Cycle Approach

Leaving No Girls and No Women Behind

4-5 November 2016

Bangkok, Thailand

Statement of Commitment

We, Speakers, Ministers, and Parliamentarians from 25 countries of the Asia-Pacific region, gathered at the 11th Regional Women Parliamentarians and Ministers Conference on Ensuring Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment from a Life-Cycle Approach: Leaving No Girls and No Women Behind in Bangkok, Thailand on 4-5 November 2016, hereby adopt this Statement of Commitment.

Preamble:

1. **Reaffirming** our commitment to leave no one behind and to the full and effective realization of each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, and especially concerned with the fulfilment of goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10, relating to the eradication of poverty and hunger, gender equality, good health and well-being, quality education, and the overall reduction of inequalities;
2. **Acknowledging** the conclusions drawn in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) General Report of 2015, confirming the substantial progress made since the 2000 Millennium Declaration and the great value and effectiveness of setting clear and ambitious goals with a worldwide reach;
3. **Recognizing** the previous ten regional Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conferences as significant platforms of capacity building and strengthening of collaboration among women Parliamentarians and Ministers in the region, as well as the critical involvement and support of male parliamentarians and Ministers in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment;
4. **Reiterating** the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, upholding the principle of equal rights of men and women, while urging the three countries in Asia and the Pacific that have not ratified this Convention to do so at the earliest opportunity, and for all countries to give full effect to all its provisions;

5. **Recalling** the Declaration of the UN General Assembly on 20 December 1993 on the Elimination of Violence Against Women which acknowledges that violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, and that women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee women, migrant women, women living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, girls, women with disabilities, elderly women, women in situations of armed conflict, and women in humanitarian situations, are especially vulnerable to violence;
6. **Further Recalling** the commitments made at the World Conferences on Women, held in Mexico in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995, to advance women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality, and noting the strong commitment to monitor and further progress our shared aims to advance women's empowerment and gender equality made by our Governments in the Beijing+20 Platform;
7. **Reaffirming** the commitments made at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action adopted in Cairo in 1994, and in the ICPD Beyond 2014, to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and men, boys and girls;
8. **Celebrating** the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (APPC) Ministerial Declaration adopted in Bangkok in September 2013, and the leading role of the advocacy of Parliamentarians in achieving a most significant rights-based document, noting the need to further assert sexual and reproductive health and rights as basic human rights without discrimination;
9. **Reaffirming** the importance of the declarations (the Stockholm Statement of Commitment and the Declaration on Human Rights) adopted by Parliamentarians from all regions of the world in April 2014 at the Sixth International Parliamentarians Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPCI), where we committed to address the rights and inequities of migrants, refugees, people with disabilities, child brides, adolescents and other marginalised communities;
10. **Deeply conscious** of the world's rapidly ageing population, and the commitments made in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) of April 2002, in particular to support elderly women in their political, economic and social participation;
11. **Reiterating** the principles enshrined in the Bali Declaration by Parliamentarians and Civil Society on MDG Acceleration and the Post-2015 Development Agenda adopted in March 2013, emphasizing human rights for all, democracy and good governance, equality and non-discrimination, sustainable development, and a system-wide approach through quality public service delivery;

12. **Recognizing** Resolution 2016/1 adopted at the 49th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) in April 2016, and endorsing the commitment to encourage the collection of reliable data and indicators in the fields of sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and education, and monitoring our progress in using that data to develop and implement effective national policies;
13. **Recalling** the Kathmandu Declaration of the South Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Child Marriage of 23 March 2016, that prompted us to accelerate collective efforts to end early, child, and forced marriage as a form of entrenched gender inequality, violence against women and girls, and violence against children;
14. **Further recalling** the declaration and recommendations made by the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development toward the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit to reaffirm the commitment to human security for all, to achieve freedom from fear and want, and to realize sustainable development and dignity and equality for all;
15. **Asserting** the importance of South-South cooperation, and specifically the importance of our sub-regional inter-governmental bodies: the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Parliaments in Central Asia, and other smaller and emerging regional communities have a critical role in reinforcing the accountability of member States to mainstream gender equality and SRHR priorities in national policies and in enabling parliamentarians to play a strong advocacy and monitoring role on policy and legal reform and implementation;
16. **Acknowledging** gender inequality itself as a form of violence against women, and that violence against women persists and includes harassment, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, elder abuse and neglect, and unequal access to healthcare and health services;
17. **Acknowledging** that the issue of gender and women's empowerment for the whole life cycle of a woman is of critical importance for all countries and communities across our region, and indeed across the globe for achieving equality, peace and security, and sustainable development.

We Speakers, Ministers, and Parliamentarians,

18. **Commit** to eliminating violence against women and girls in all forms;
19. **Commit** to engaging men and boys in the fight to end gender-based violence and promote gender equality;

20. **Commit** to providing women and girls equal access to health services, including SRHR and modern contraception and safe abortion services where legal, throughout their life cycles and regardless of their social, economic, or marital status, as well as education, skills training, and social services;
21. **Recognize** the importance of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in promoting women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality, and commit to increasing the reach of CSE in each of our countries;
22. **Commit** to partnering with faith-based organizations to enhance the rights of women and girls, and address gender-based violence, promoting SRHR within acceptable but progressive religious frameworks;
23. **Commit** to eradicating the practices of early, child and forced marriage, bride kidnapping, and honour killing;
24. **Commit** to ending human trafficking in all forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, and all other forms of exploitation;
25. **Recognize** that the media and the Internet can be a force for good in terms of raising awareness and sharing information on gender issues but media also plays a significant role in perpetuating negative stereotypes of women, portraying women as sexual prey and facilitating trafficking and the exploitation of women and girls;
26. **Commit** to protecting and expanding the space for Civil Society and engaging with Civil Society Organizations in policy formulation, implementation, and service delivery;
27. **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;
28. **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;
29. **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;
30. **Recognize** that women have been historically excluded from fully participating

in the economy and commit to taking affirmative steps to make new space for women across all age groups in the rural, national and global economy, improve equal employment opportunity and women's access to higher-paying jobs, and eliminate the gender wage gap;

31. **Recognize** that jobs that currently employ a majority of women are likely to be hardest hit proportionately by impending technological disruption, increasing the urgency for more women to enter high-growth fields that demand Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) skills and commit to review the provision and promotion of STEM education and to ensure girls and young women are encouraged to pursue STEM subjects and career pathways;
32. **Commit** to supporting female entrepreneurs in accessing capital, technology and other key resources, and business and management training, wherever possible, through an enabling legal and regulatory environment, and encouraging private sector lenders and other resource partners to do more to help women start and grow their businesses;
33. **Commit** to encouraging all employers across the private and public sector to review and update workplace policies and practices to tackle unconscious bias in recruitment and promotion processes, to extend to female (and male) employees with caring responsibilities parental and elderly care leave and other appropriate support, to offer part-time and flexible working options, child-care facilities at work, and to offer mentoring and sponsorship initiatives for women;
34. **Commit** to extending greater protections to women working in the unregulated informal sector and formal sector;
35. **Affirm** that women are often more vulnerable than men to the effects of climate change, and that it is an obligation of government to provide protection and income-generating solutions for those likely to lose their livelihoods to the effects of climate change, especially women and other vulnerable populations, through enacting progressive policies to mitigate the effects of climate change;
36. **Commit** to protecting women and children who are migrating due to climate change, armed conflict, humanitarian disasters, and lack of economic opportunity, and to protecting others, including children and the elderly, who are left behind by migrating family members.
37. We, Speakers, Ministers, and Parliamentarians, pledge to carry out these actions and systematically and actively monitor the progress we make in doing so.
38. We further pledge to report to and engage with all stakeholders and urge our colleagues, counterparts and Parliaments in Asia and the Pacific to take note of and act on this Statement of Commitment and its recommendations.

39. We hereby reaffirm our commitment and undertake all that is in our means and resources to produce the concrete policy actions and comprehensive approach in order to promote the empowerment of women and girls and advance gender equality, and pledge to voice these issues throughout our respective political mandates.

40. We also pledge to share these commitments made with our fellow Parliamentarians and to advocate for greater understanding of the SDGs within our Parliaments and in our national policies.

41. We finally commit to work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and call upon our current and future governments in particular to take up the commitment to leave no woman and no girl behind.

Adopted in Bangkok, Thailand on 5 November 2016 by 54 Parliamentarians and Ministers.

Annex 5: Media Coverage

Asia Today: “Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians and Ministers Adopted the New Statement of Commitment to Leave No Girls and No Women Behind”

Link: <http://www.asiatoday.com/pressrelease/asia-pacific-parliamentarians-and-ministers-adopted-new-statement-commitment-leave-no-g>

ASIA TODAY | POWER-GEN | 17-19 MAY 2016 | INDIA'S LEADING CLEAN ENERGY EVENT

PR NEWS | IR NEWS | EVENTS | FEATURES | ECO & GREEN | EDUCATION | SCI & TECH | Log In | Register

EVENT > Listings > Partners > Newsletters > Subscribe > Submit > Beirut

Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians and Ministers Adopted the New Statement of Commitment to Leave No Girls and No Women Behind

Nov 08, 2016
Category: Conference | Event | NGO |
Keywords: People

11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference
4-11 November 2016 | Bangkok, Thailand

BANGKOK, November 8 2016 --(ASIA TODAY)-- More than 50 Speakers, Members of Parliament and Ministers from 25 Asia-Pacific countries attended the "11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference" last week in Bangkok, Thailand to tackle issues of gender equality and women's empowerment in the region.

In the opening, Professor Keizo Takami, Chairperson of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and Member of the House of Councillors in Japan, emphasized the role of parliamentarians and ministers in advancing gender equality. "Every time we hold a conference like this one today, we, parliamentarians and ministers, have raised the right issues, asked the right questions, and made commitments," said Professor Takami. "Now, the questions that need to be asked and answered are: Why haven't we been able to eliminate the gender gap by now? How can we work together to break barriers to achieve gender equality?"

"The investment in girls is an investment in families, communities and the whole society," said Mr. Adélio Hugo da Costa, President of National Parliament of Timor-Leste. In his keynote speech, "When women and girls have healthy development, humankind and the State will also have healthy development." Crucial insights into closing the gender gap were also provided by Professor Pompetch Wichticholchai, President of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand, Ms. Gulmira Kudaberdieva, Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, and Dr. Jiko Luveni, Speaker of Parliament of Fiji.

THE ALL-NEW 2017 GRAND CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK®
Leather and suede-trimmed performance
Anti-rattle, rattle and resonance

Jeep
VEHICLE

Ms. Brooke Axtell, an anti-domestic violence and anti-human trafficking activist from the United States, shared her survival and healing story in the session on violence against women. She urged policymakers to include survivor leadership in policymaking and create greater funding for comprehensive mental healthcare. "The truth is that if young women and girls don't receive the healthcare they need at an early age where violence first occurs, we cannot break that cycle and prevent it from occurring again when they reach womanhood," said Ms. Axtell.

The Conference adopted the Statement of Commitment, which encompasses providing women and girls equal access to health services, engaging men and boys in the fight to end gender-based violence, securing quotas for qualified women political candidates, offering young women training such as Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) skills and mentoring opportunities for their future political and economic leadership, protecting migrants as well as their children and the elderly being left behind by migrating family members, and employing gender-responsive budgeting. Fifty-four participating parliamentarians and ministers committed themselves to "work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and call upon our current and future governments in particular to take up the commitment to leave no women and no girls behind."

The 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference was organized by AFPPD, hosted by the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand, and funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Japan Trust Fund, and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

SETA 2017
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY ASIA 2017
8-10 MARCH 2017
BITEC, BANGKOK, THAILAND
TOWARDS A LOW CARBON SOCIETY
REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

Submit Press Release | Submit Event

1 Food Fights Dementia

Latest Press Releases

SEE ALL

NTU to build an offshore integrated system of renewable energy sources
Nov 21, 2016

NCKU launches joint master degree program to initiate mobility for regional talents
Nov 21, 2016

SGX-Listed ISR Capital Re-Designates Mining Expert Mr Chen Tong as Executive Chairman
JCI Newswire
Nov 21, 2016

BRI Launches JCB Platinum Credit Card for Travelers
JCI Newswire
Nov 21, 2016

Peach Decides to Introduce Airbus A320neo to its Fleet
Nov 20, 2016

Eight HKTDC Autumn Fairs Attract Nearly 130,000 Overseas Exhibitors and Buyers
Nov 18, 2016

Thai National Legislative Assembly: "ประธาน สนช. ร่วมพิธีเปิดและกล่าวสุนทรพจน์ในการประชุมองค์การสมาชิกรัฐสภาแห่งเอเชียด้านประชากรและการพัฒนา (AFPPD) ครั้งที่ ๑๑"

Link: <http://click.senate.go.th/?p=29820>

The screenshot shows the website of the Thai National Legislative Assembly (Click NLA). The main article is titled "ประธาน สนช. ร่วมพิธีเปิดและกล่าวสุนทรพจน์ในการประชุมองค์การสมาชิกรัฐสภาแห่งเอเชียด้านประชากรและการพัฒนา (AFPPD) ครั้งที่ ๑๑". The article includes a photograph of a group of people at a conference and a video player. The text below the photo describes the event on Friday, 4 November 2016, at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel Bangkok, where Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the National Legislative Assembly, attended the opening ceremony and gave a speech at the 11th Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) meeting. The meeting highlighted key issues on gender equality, life-cycle approach and the principle of leaving no girls and no women behind, including the elderly and the vulnerable in accordance with UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Presidents and vice presidents of parliament, ministers, members of parliament and representatives of related organizations from 29 member countries, also attended the meeting.

Official translation:

On Friday 4 November 2016 at 09.00 hrs. at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel Bangkok, Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the National Legislative Assembly, attended the opening ceremony and gave a speech at the 11th Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) meeting. The meeting highlighted key issues on gender equality, life-cycle approach and the principle of leaving no girls and no women behind, including the elderly and the vulnerable in accordance with UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Presidents and vice presidents of parliament, ministers, members of parliament and representatives of related organizations from 29 member countries, also attended the meeting.

**Thai National Legislative Assembly: "รองประธาน กมธ. สังคมฯ เข้าร่วมเวทีอภิปรายในบทบาทสมาชิก
รัฐสภาในการทำให้เกิดความเท่าเทียมทางเพศ"**

Link: <http://click.senate.go.th/?p=29856>




Official translation:

On Friday 4 November 2016 at 11. 00–13. 00 hrs. at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel Bangkok, Mrs. Suwannee Sirivejchaphan, the second Vice President of Committee on Society, Child, Youth, Woman, Elderly, Disabled and Underprivileged Affairs of the National Legislative Assembly, attended the conference session on Women’s Empowerment: Elimination of Violence Against Women which addressed the roles of parliamentarians in gender equality and women’s empowerment for the achievement of the goal for gender equality (SDG 5) by eliminating violence against women. The session was held by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development during the 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference.

Parliament of Fiji: "Speaker highlights follow-up actions to SDGs"

Link: <http://www.parliament.gov.fj/News/Speaker-highlights-follow-up-actions-to-SDGs>




PARLIAMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF FIJI

Sitemap | Contact Us | Members | About Us

About Us | Members | Hansard | Media | News | Publications

Speaker highlights follow-up actions to SDGs



11/05/2016
A delegation led by the Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni is in Bangkok, Thailand for the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development ('AFPPD') – 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference ('Conference').

A delegation led by the Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni is in Bangkok, Thailand for the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development ('AFPPD') – 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference ('Conference').

The Hon. Speaker participated as one of the keynote speakers during the plenary session where she focused on the Fijian Parliament's follow-up actions to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the SDG goals.

Hon. Luveni stated that with respect to SDG 3 – Good health and wellbeing, government assistance begins from the womb, where expectant mothers are given food vouchers to feed themselves and their babies before they are born; deliveries are done at the major hospitals to ensure that services are readily available should there be complications during delivery; there is free education for school children as well as free transport and free text books; there is financial assistance to all students that want to pursue tertiary education; and girls are provided the same opportunities as the boys and it has been noted that girls outnumber boys come graduation time at the universities.

Hon. Luveni further stated that Fiji's unemployment rate has reduced from 15% to 7% however, when it comes to joining the workforce, it is noted that at the entry level, at the lower level of positions, it is chock full of women but when it is time to retire, more men retire at the leadership/management level.

"It is at this phase of women's life cycle, that issues of gender inequality become prominent and as we are aware, gender inequality perpetuates and reproduces poverty from one generation to another, and women more than men are vulnerable to Human Poverty."

"We are aware that achievement of SDG 5 will impact on all other SDGs and a guarantee that no one is left behind come 2030."

In her concluding remarks, Hon. Luveni stated that the 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference is so timely and unquestionably calls for all parliamentarians to work collaboratively to achieve gender equality.

The Conference is being attended by more than 100 ministers and parliamentarians from Asia-Pacific including experts from International Organisations, CSOs, faith-based organisations, youths and the media. The Fijian delegation consists of the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaga and Secretariat support staff.

It concludes with the delivery of the Parliamentarians' Declaration, Commitments and Recommendations to the Thai Government Representative.

The Conference is organised by the AFPPD, with support from the Government of Japan (the Japan Trust Fund), the UNFPA APRO and the IPPF SARO, and is hosted by the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand.

The two-day Conference ends today, Saturday 5th November 2016.


-End-

Site map | Contact Us | Bills | Members | Research | Education | Visitor Stats since 17 June, 2015: 6 1 9 1 0 © 2014 Parliament of the Republic of Fiji. All Rights reserved. | Terms of Use

f t youtu

Parliament of Fiji: “Men to work with women as equal partners – Vuniwaqa”

Link: <http://www.parliament.gov.fj/News/Men-to-work-with-women-as-equal-partners-Vuniwaqa>




PARLIAMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF FIJI

Sitemap | Contact Us | Members | About Us

About Us | Members | Hansard | Media | News | Publications

Men to work with women as equal partners - Vuniwaqa



11/05/2016
“Men must work alongside women as equal partners.” This was highlighted by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa as she participated as a panelist during Session 1 of the AFPPD – 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference (‘Conference’) in Bangkok, Thailand.

“Men must work alongside women as equal partners.” This was highlighted by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa as she participated as a panelist during Session 1 of the AFPPD – 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference (‘Conference’) in Bangkok, Thailand.

“What is important is that when advocating for women’s rights or eliminating violence against women, men must ensure that they do not dominate and that they work with women to advocate for women’s empowerment and leadership.”

The Session ran under the theme, “Women’s Empowerment: Elimination of Violence Against Women” and it focused on engaging men and boys in addressing violence against women.

Hon. Vuniwaqa spoke from Fiji’s perspective and highlighted the following salient points –

- Creating a strong legal and policy framework that not only addresses the criminality of violence against women in isolation but one that also recognizes that it is the empowerment of women and girls which is the underlying platform that needs to be established, strengthened and continued to be built upon;
- It is vital that the local community must first acknowledge that violence against women is ingrained into the fabric of society, that it is wrong legally and morally and that the community has an important role and duty to play in its elimination; and
- Continuous review and monitoring of programmes to identify gaps and challenges which need to be plugged up or methods which may need to be modified to work in any given situation.

Hon. Vuniwaqa also acknowledged the Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, in becoming a public voice on the campaign for ending violence against women and girls.

“The Hon. Prime Minister has spoken unequivocally against this form of gender inequality on both national and international forums highlighting the escalating incidence of violence against women and girls and the concomitant effort by Government to eliminate the same.”

The Conference concludes today, Saturday, 5th November 2016, with the delivery of the Parliamentarians’ Declaration, Commitments and Recommendations to the Thai Government Representative.

-End-

Site map | Contact Us | Bills | Members | Research | Education | Visitor Stats since 17 June, 2015: 6 1 3 1 1 © 2014 Parliament of the Republic of Fiji. All Rights reserved. | Terms of Use

f t youtu

Fiji Broadcasting Corporation: "Work as equals: Vuniwaqa"

Link: <http://www.fbc.com.fj/fiji/45377/work-as-equals-vuniwaqa>

The screenshot displays the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC) website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for News, TV, Radio Stations, Photo Galleries, Downloads, About FBC, and Contact Us. Below this is the FBC logo and a secondary navigation bar with links for HOME, FIJI, WORLD, SPORTS, and NEWS ARCHIVES. A timestamp indicates the page was viewed on Monday, 21 November 2016 at 16:41:02 PM.

The main content area features a news article titled "Work as equals: Vuniwaqa" dated 07:00 Sun Nov 06, 2016. The article is attributed to Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Minister for Women and Children, and is reported by Edwin Nand. The text discusses her participation in a conference in Bangkok, Thailand, where she emphasized the need for men to work alongside women as equal partners. It also mentions the conference's theme, "Women's Empowerment: Elimination of Violence Against Women," and notes that Vuniwaqa shared examples of successful initiatives in Fiji.

Below the article is a social media sharing section with icons for Facebook, Twitter, Email, and LinkedIn, and a "Share Our Story" button.

On the right side of the page, there is a video player titled "FBC VICTORY ANTHEM GO FIJI GO". The video thumbnail shows the Fiji national flag and text that reads: "GO FIJI GO' (2)", "THE VICTORY ANTHEM WE DEDICATE TO YOU THE FBC TV", and "VICTORY... A TEAM FOR WINNING OUR FIRST GOLD AT THE RIO OLYMPIC GAMES". Below the video player is a section for "FBCTV 7PM NEWS" with a thumbnail for "FBC 7PM NEWS 21 11 16".

Hon. Karen Makishima's Blogpost: “バンコクより”

Link: <http://ameblo.jp/makishimakaren/entry-12216569816.html>

プロフィール

Amebaオフィシャルブロガー



プロフィール | ブログの部屋
なう | 公式ブログ

ニックネーム: 牧島かれん
性別: 女性
誕生日: 1976年11月1日
血液型: B型

読者になる
メッセージを送る
アンバスターになる
ブログでギフトを贈る

記事作成・編集

ブックマーク

牧島かれんオフィシャルサイト
[一覧を見る]

ブログテーマ一覧

ブログ (146)

カレンダー

<< 11月 >>

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

ブログの画像を見ながら

【限定公開】アンバスター記事一覧

このブログの読者になる(チェック)

《国会図書館に国会見... | 記事一覧 | 明日は...》

2016-11-05 11:48:11

バンコクより

テーマ: ブログ

AFPPD第11回女性大臣、議員会合に出席しています。昨日の夜中バンコクに到着して今晚東京に戻ります。「女性の経済参画」のパネルで日本を代表して事例発表を行いました。



タイでは現在喪に服しておりますので皆黒い服で弔意を示しています。パネルでは、各国の経済政策を紹介しました。1時間タイムでも大きな貢献を示す女性たち、チームワークが得意な女性リーダーたち、中小企業の起業家たち、など好事例も出てきていますが、男性のメンター、女子の教育、金融リテラシー、トレーニング、ネットワークをより一層強化しなければなりません。リーダー育成は早い方がよい、父親の考え方も重要、地方の女子たちへ奨学金を出すべき、司法や法曹界の女性を増やしたい、などの意見が出ました。AIやロボティクスに女性の仕事が取って代わられる可能性もあることから、女性の経済参加で、もたらされる価値を高めることが大切です。私からは、女性のアイデアによって商品開発が進められた事例や、神奈川県でこブランドの紹介をさせていただきました。コーヒープレイクの間にも多くのコメントをいただきました。経済のセッションは具体的な事例を示しながら議論を進める事が出来るので興味が深いものであったと思います。女性の経済的自立は暴力の被害を減らす、など、多くの問題の解決策に繋がります。



オフィシャルサイト

makishimakaren.com

最新の記事一覧

江藤
やえのちゃん、と、びーなマン
湯河原・真鶴国政報告会
金曜日の国会
虫野の活用
イタリア大使館へ
全国羊カヌー
コメディ
移動の多い日曜日
子供達の絵心、筆力

[一覧を見る]
[画像一覧を見る]

ブログ内検索

ブログ内を検索

アーカイブ

2016年11月 (21)
2016年10月 (28)
2016年09月 (24)
2016年08月 (25)
2016年07月 (24)
2016年06月 (27)
2016年05月 (24)
2016年04月 (32)
2016年03月 (32)
2016年02月 (31)
2016年01月 (30)
2015年12月 (21)
2015年11月 (20)
2015年10月 (24)
2015年09月 (26)
2015年08月 (27)
2015年07月 (26)
2015年06月 (20)
2015年05月 (29)
2015年04月 (15)
2015年03月 (23)
2015年02月 (27)
2015年01月 (34)
2014年12月 (27)
2014年11月 (25)
2014年10月 (24)
2014年09月 (30)
2014年08月 (28)
2014年07月 (35)
2014年06月 (34)
2014年05月 (27)
2014年04月 (20)

Unofficial translation by AFPPD Secretariat from her blog on November 5:

I am attending the AFPPD 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference. I arrived in Bangkok at mid-night last night, returning to Tokyo this evening. Today, as a panelist representing Japan, I presented Japanese case studies for the session of “Women’s Economic Participation.”

Thailand is in the middle of national mourning, so we were all dressed in black to pay respect to the King Bhumibol Adulyadej. We made presentations on our respective countries’ economic policies. Many female

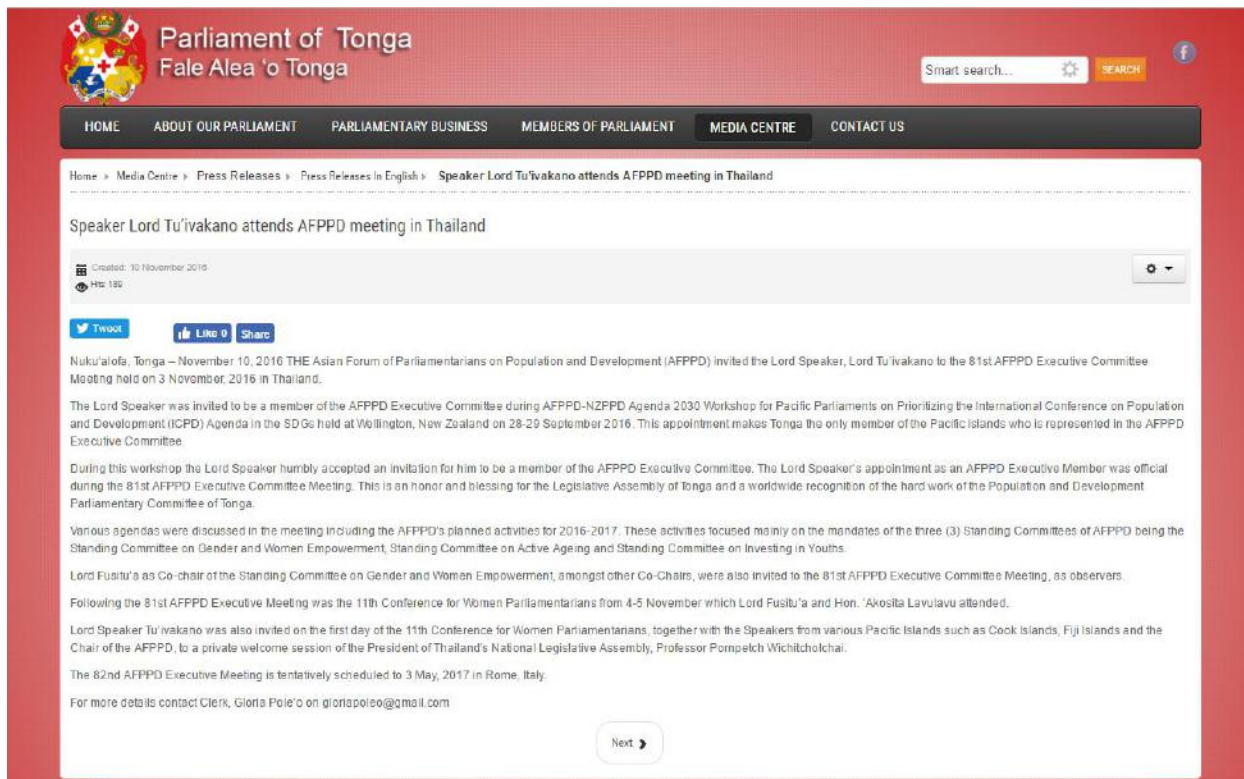
role models were shared, including part-time female workers contributing to the economy, women leaders being instrumental in building teamwork, female small-and medium-sized entrepreneurs, and so on. At the same time, we reaffirmed the need to intensify our efforts to have more male mentors, improve girls'and women's education, develop women's financial literacy, offer training programs and strengthen women's networking. Session panelists and conference participants made numerous recommendations. For example, leadership training should start early. The role of fathers is critically important for their daughters' future career aspirations. Scholarships should be provided specifically to girls and young women in rural areas. We need to increase the number of women who work in the judiciary branch. In the future, AI or robotics may take place of the types of many jobs currently occupied by women, which means that women's economic participation should expand further into higher value-added jobs.

As for my presentation, I introduced some cases of product development based on women's ideas - for example, the Kanagawa Nadeshiko brand. During a coffee break, I also received many comments of encouragement. The session of women's economic participation proved to be successful with results, as we were able to proceed with productive discussions based on specific case studies. Women's economic independence is also linked to the decreased incidence of violence against women, leading to solutions of many issues and challenges.

Lastly, I shared the fact that I have encouraged policies to increase male participation in housework in Japan, and we aim to increase male involvement in housework up to 2 hours and 30 minutes by 2020.

Parliament of Tonga: “Speaker Lord Tu’ivakano attends AFPPD meeting in Thailand”

Link: <http://parliament.gov.to/media-centre/press-releases/press-releases-in-english/544-speaker-lord-tu-ivakano-attends-afppd-meeting-in-thailand/>



The screenshot shows the Parliament of Tonga website with a red header. The logo is on the left, and the text "Parliament of Tonga" and "Fale Alea 'o Tonga" is in the center. A search bar is on the right. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT OUR PARLIAMENT, PARLIAMETARY BUSINESS, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, MEDIA CENTRE, and CONTACT US. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: Home > Media Centre > Press Releases > Press Releases in English > Speaker Lord Tu'ivakano attends AFPPD meeting in Thailand. The title of the press release is "Speaker Lord Tu'ivakano attends AFPPD meeting in Thailand". Below the title are social media sharing buttons for Twitter, Facebook Like, and Share. The text of the press release is as follows:

Nuku'alofa, Tonga – November 10, 2016 THE Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) invited the Lord Speaker, Lord Tu'ivakano to the 81st AFPPD Executive Committee Meeting held on 3 November 2016 in Thailand.

The Lord Speaker was invited to be a member of the AFPPD Executive Committee during AFPPD-NZPPD Agenda 2030 Workshop for Pacific Parliaments on Prioritizing the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Agenda in the SDGs held at Wellington, New Zealand on 28-29 September 2016. This appointment makes Tonga the only member of the Pacific Islands who is represented in the AFPPD Executive Committee.

During this workshop the Lord Speaker humbly accepted an invitation for him to be a member of the AFPPD Executive Committee. The Lord Speaker's appointment as an AFPPD Executive Member was official during the 81st AFPPD Executive Committee Meeting. This is an honor and blessing for the Legislative Assembly of Tonga and a worldwide recognition of the hard work of the Population and Development Parliamentary Committee of Tonga.

Various agendas were discussed in the meeting including the AFPPD's planned activities for 2016-2017. These activities focused mainly on the mandates of the three (3) Standing Committees of AFPPD being the Standing Committee on Gender and Women Empowerment, Standing Committee on Active Ageing and Standing Committee on Investing in Youths.

Lord Fusi'u'a as Co-chair of the Standing Committee on Gender and Women Empowerment, amongst other Co-Chairs, were also invited to the 81st AFPPD Executive Committee Meeting, as observers.

Following the 81st AFPPD Executive Meeting was the 11th Conference for Women Parliamentarians from 4-5 November which Lord Fusi'u'a and Hon. 'Akosita Lavulavu attended.

Lord Speaker Tu'ivakano was also invited on the first day of the 11th Conference for Women Parliamentarians, together with the Speakers from various Pacific Islands such as Cook Islands, Fiji Islands and the Chair of the AFPPD, to a private welcome session of the President of Thailand's National Legislative Assembly, Professor Pongpetch Wichitcholchai.

The 82nd AFPPD Executive Meeting is tentatively scheduled to 3 May, 2017 in Rome, Italy.

For more details contact Clerk, Gloria Pale'o on gloriapaleo@gmail.com

Next >

Tonga Broadcasting Commission: “Tonga Agrees in an International Commitment to Break Down Barriers Between Gender Equality in Bangkok”


Link: <http://www.tonga-broadcasting.net/?p=3565>

HOME RADIO TONGA TV TONGA TV TONGA NEWS 2016 TV PROGRAMS CONTACT US

FANONGONONGO: Fanongonongo Talamahu'inga 'a e Potungae Pa'--

TONGA AGREES IN AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS BETWEEN GENDER EQUALITY IN BANGKOK

(Radio & TV Tonga, Nuku'alofa, 09/11/2016)



Tonga attended the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) – which adopted the Statement of Commitment in Bangkok, Thailand last week.

Information from the Forum (AFPPD) says, the commitment encompasses providing women and girls equal access to health services, engaging men and boys in the fight to end gender-based violence, securing quotas for qualified women political candidates, offering young women training such as Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) skills and mentoring opportunities for their future political and economic leadership.

It also includes protecting migrants as well as their children and the elderly being left behind by migrating family members, and employing gender-responsive budgeting.

Fifty-four participating parliamentarians and ministers committed themselves to work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and call upon our current and future governments in particular to take up the commitment to leave no women and no girls behind.

Tonga's delegates includes the Speaker of Parliament – Lord Tu'ivakanō, Noble Representative of the Two Niuas – Lord Fusitu'a and Vava'u 16 people's representative – 'Akosifa Lavulavu.

© Radio & TV Tonga News 2016

The Daily Sun: "Bangladesh's success in women's contribution to economy lauded"

Link: <http://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/181364/Bangladesh%E2%80%99s-success-in-women%E2%80%99s-contribution-to-economy-lauded>

Today's Newspaper / Business / Bangladesh's success in women's contribution to economy lauded

Bangladesh's success in women's contribution to economy lauded

Staff Correspondent 5 November, 2016 12:00 AM



Forhad Hossain, MP, is seen speaking at the 11th women ministers and members of parliament conference, in Thailand on Saturday.

The Asian Forum of Parliament on Population and Development (AFPPD) has lauded Bangladesh for its outstanding success in the field of women's contribution to the country's economic development.

The appreciation came at the 11th women ministers and members of parliament conference held in Thailand. National legislative assembly of Thailand organised the two-day long conference that ended on Saturday, according to a message received here on

More News

Dhaka, Delhi to review slow-moving LoC projects

Bangladesh Investment Summit begins in Kuala Lumpur Dec 5

No alternative to adoption green tech for sustainable industrialisation

Premier Cement approves 15pc cash dividend

PRAN Chingura Nabanna Utsab kicks off tomorrow

NEWS OF THE DAY

Popular

Mobile court can't convict any person without following its law: HC

Mitford turns a hub of fake drug trade

Ohio attacker Abdul Ali Artan was 'Somali refugee'

Brad Pitt escapes to posh island for Thanksgiving

Khaleda to sit with 20-party leaders Tuesday night

15 recommendations to improve

The Women's Foundation – Newsletter: Introduction by Ms. Su-Mei Thompson, CEO
Link: <http://www.anpasia.com/pdf/3310393/414A5F4A70434258467741415043>



[EVENTS](#) | [PROGRAMMES](#) | [CEO BLOG](#)

Dear TWF Friends

This weekend, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference arranged by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) in Bangkok.

11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference

4 - 5 November 2016 | Bangkok, Thailand



I was invited to speak as part of a session on Women's Economic Participation alongside Ann Sudmalis - MP Australia, Jane Sloane - The Asia Foundation, Karen Makishima - MP Japan, Lork Kheng - MP Cambodia and Farhad Hossain - MP, Bangladesh. My presentation focused in particular on TWF's Girls Go Tech/GirlSpark programmes, our Mentoring Programme, our research on women and entrepreneurship and our efforts to mobilise male champions of change through the 30% Club and Male Allies. The session was followed by a lively Q&A and it was terrific to see the interest on the part of the audience of regional MPs in our work!

Among the many outstanding female parliamentarians who spoke at and who attended the conference, I was particularly impressed by Tonga's only female MP - Akosita H. Lavulavu, who delivered an impassioned account of why there are so few women parliamentarians and what we can do to increase the participation of women in politics. Among the chief barriers she outlined were the mindset against women being in parliament, how women are not voting for women, the need for resolute political will for greater women's political participation especially to drive quotas or reserved seats for women, and women's lack of confidence to contest elections.

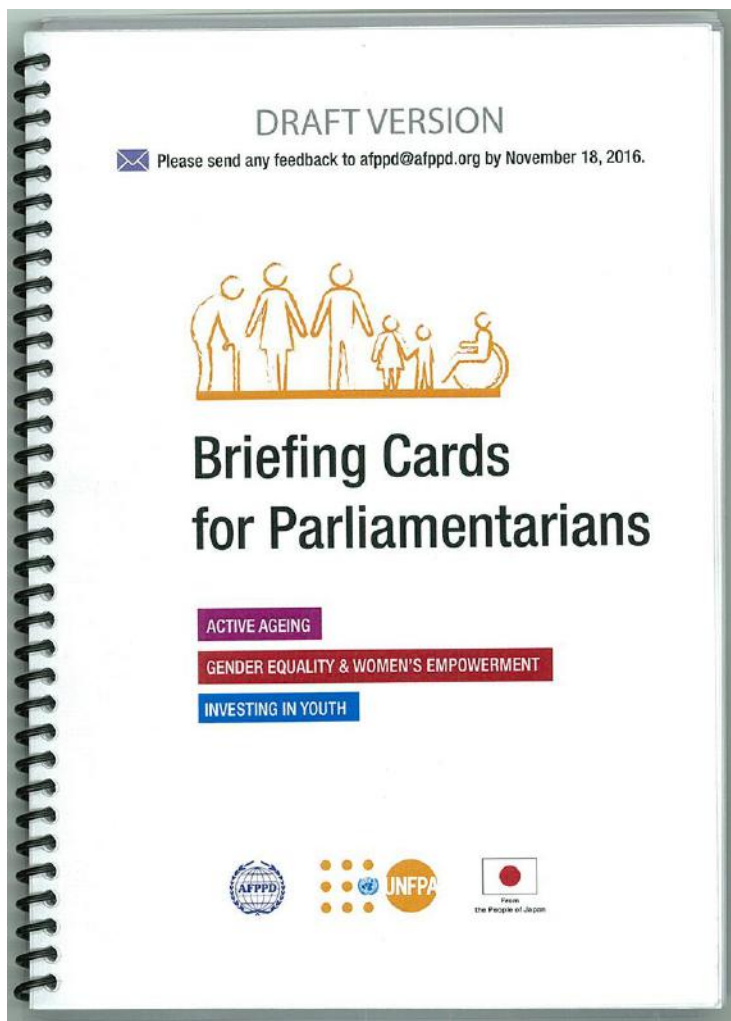
Annex 6: Briefing Cards

Briefing Cards on Active Ageing, Investing in Youth and Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

The drafts of the briefing cards were distributed at the 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference for feedback by parliamentarians and parliamentary staff before its final release in December 2016.

The briefing cards highlight evidence-based good policy practices and legislation, and support data and statistics, on issues identified within the AFPPD Strategic Priorities Framework related to gender equality and women’s empowerment, investing in youth and active ageing. Five briefing cards have been created for each of the following 9 thematic topics: elimination of violence against women and girls; family planning and SRHR; women’s political participation; youth education and employment; life skills and comprehensive sexuality education; youth participation; elderly social protection; healthy and active ageing; and older persons’ contribution. The briefing cards are user-friendly and aim to act as an easy reference for parliamentarians in their advocacy and legislative work.

Cover of the Draft:



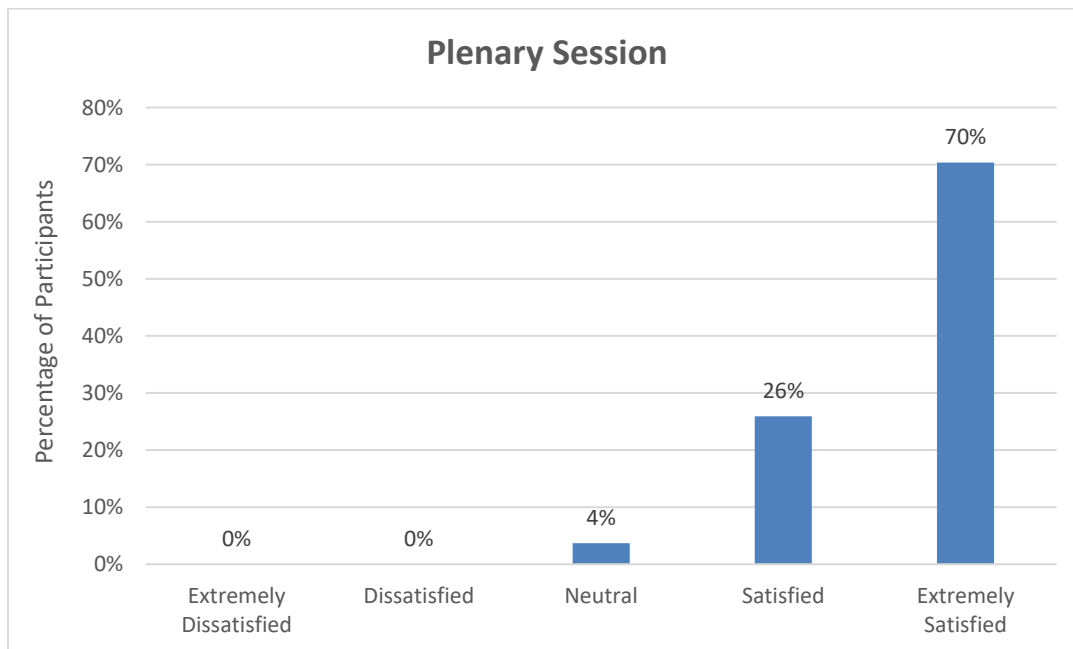
Annex 7: Evaluation of Conference

** Please note that the comments have been edited for brevity and appropriate grammar where needed. Any apparent discrepancies in percentages are due to rounding.*

Total respondents: 27 participants

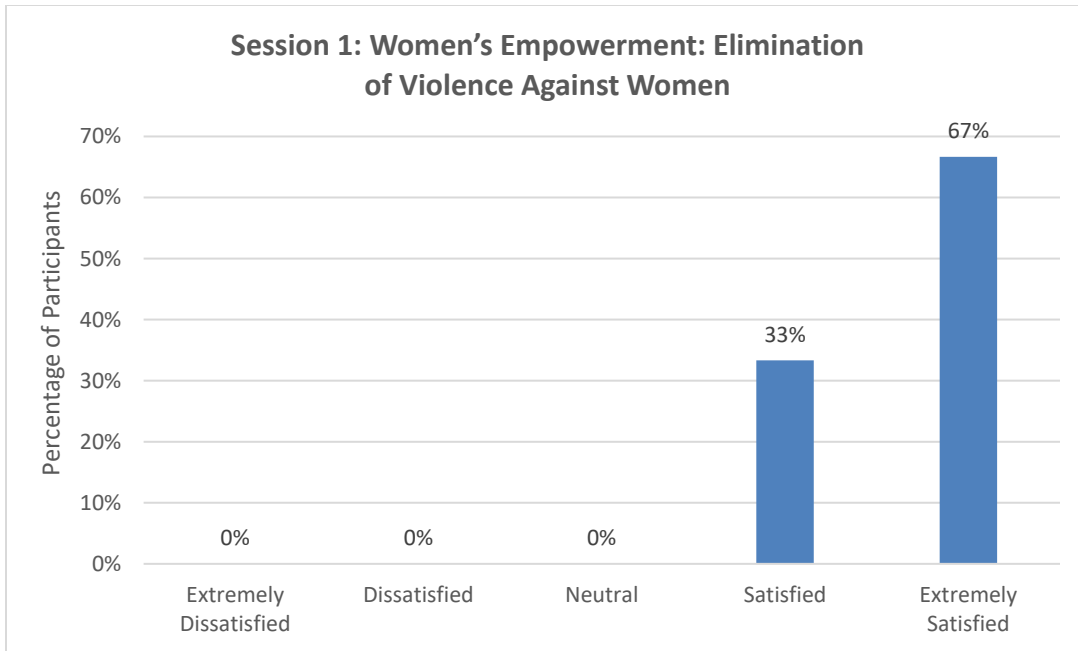
Level of Satisfaction per Session

Summary: According to the evaluation responses, the majority of participants expressed that they were “extremely satisfied” with the conference for each session. None of the participants expressed dissatisfaction while less than 10% expressed neutral level of satisfaction for the sessions. The exception is for Session 1 on Elimination of Violence against Women where participants were either “satisfied” or “extremely satisfied.” Overall, the responses demonstrate a general positive feedback although some comments also provided suggestions and areas of improvement (see “*General Highlighted Comments –Recommendations*”).



Highlighted Comment

“The keynote addresses were thought-provoking, educational and inspiring and set a highly convincing tone for solidarity, cooperation and partnership for members of AFPPD to address the issues as a team.”

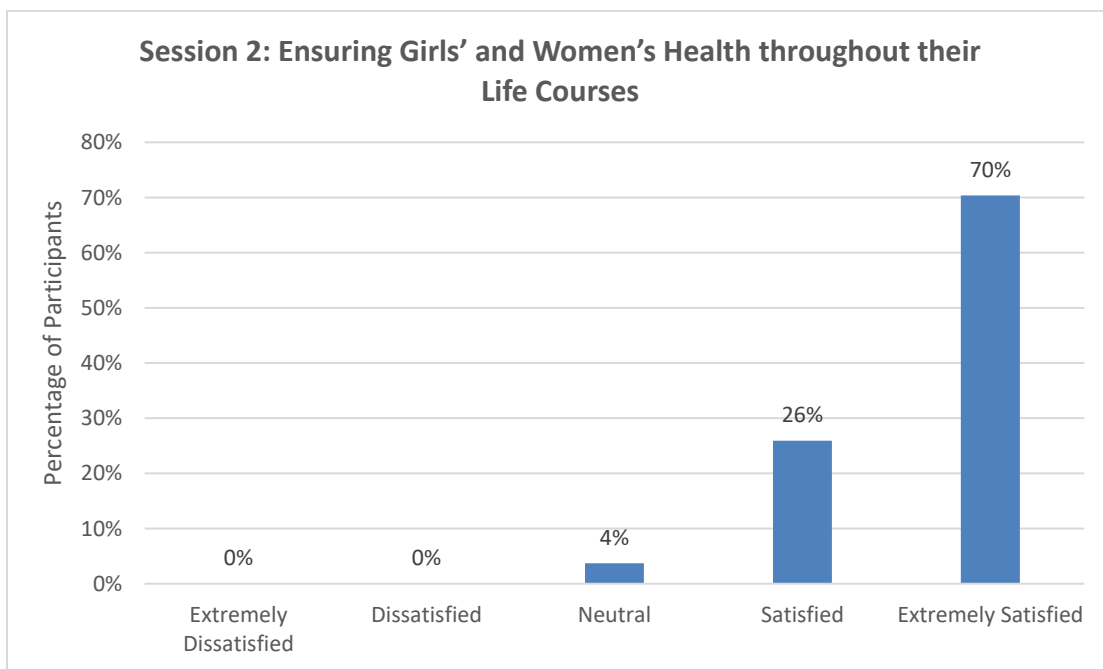


Highlighted Comments

“The issues of need of survivor leadership and factors like poverty and alcoholism related to domestic violence were eye opening.”

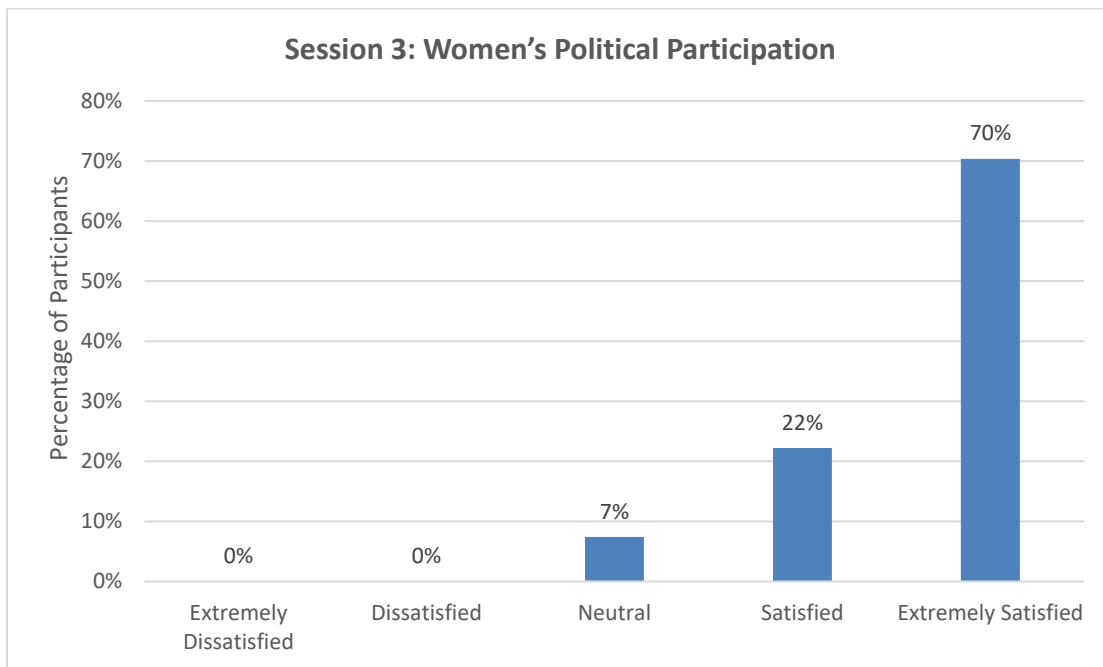
“Fantastic panel. I enjoyed listening to the inspirational speaker, Ms. Brooke Axtell.”

“I collected many ideas about laws regarding the elimination of violence against women.”



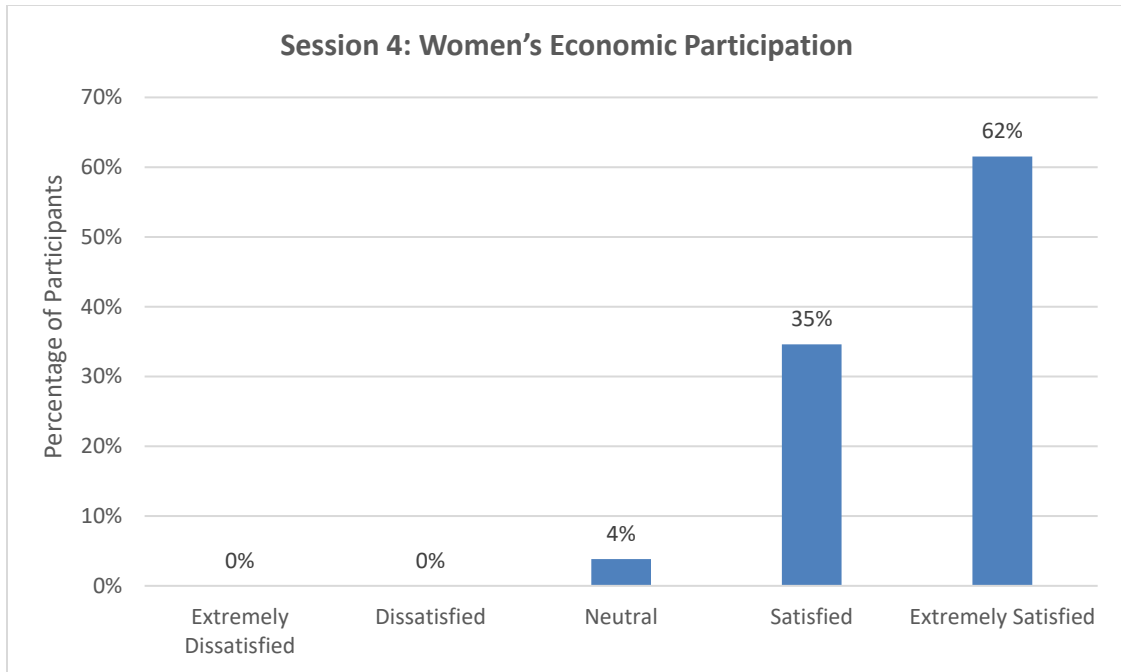
Highlighted Comments

- *“The scenario differs from country to country. However, how does gender budgeting help if we focus only in the health sector? Why don’t countries budget for other sectors related to women? This may help in ensuring the health of girls and women in their life-cycle.”*
- *“Issues of child marriage in Nepal, numerous legislative proposals in Philippines on women and child, two-finger campaign in Indonesia and Thailand’s new law on adolescents, children and women issues were inspiring and exemplary.”*



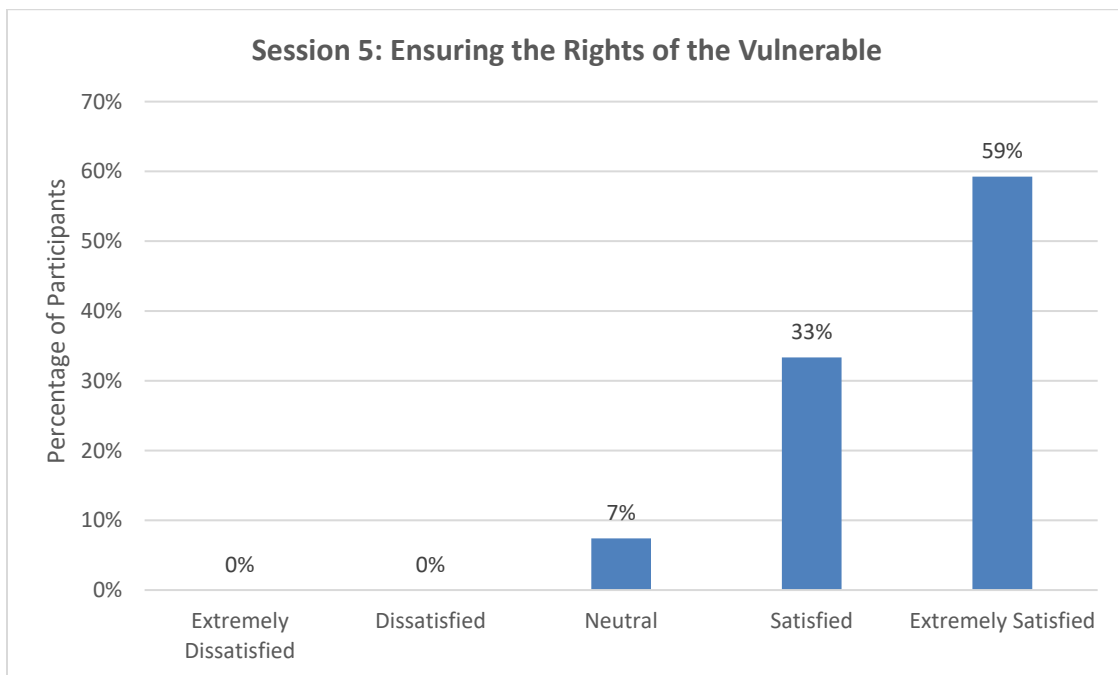
Highlighted Comments

- *“In Sri Lanka, as a woman parliamentarian, I have done a lot of work for increasing the political participation of Sri Lankans. This was a good chance for us to share our country experiences.”*
- *“Women not voting for women, quota for women in local as well as national assemblies, huge expenditure in child care in New Zealand, and issues of the need of early nurturing of national leadership were thought provoking.”*



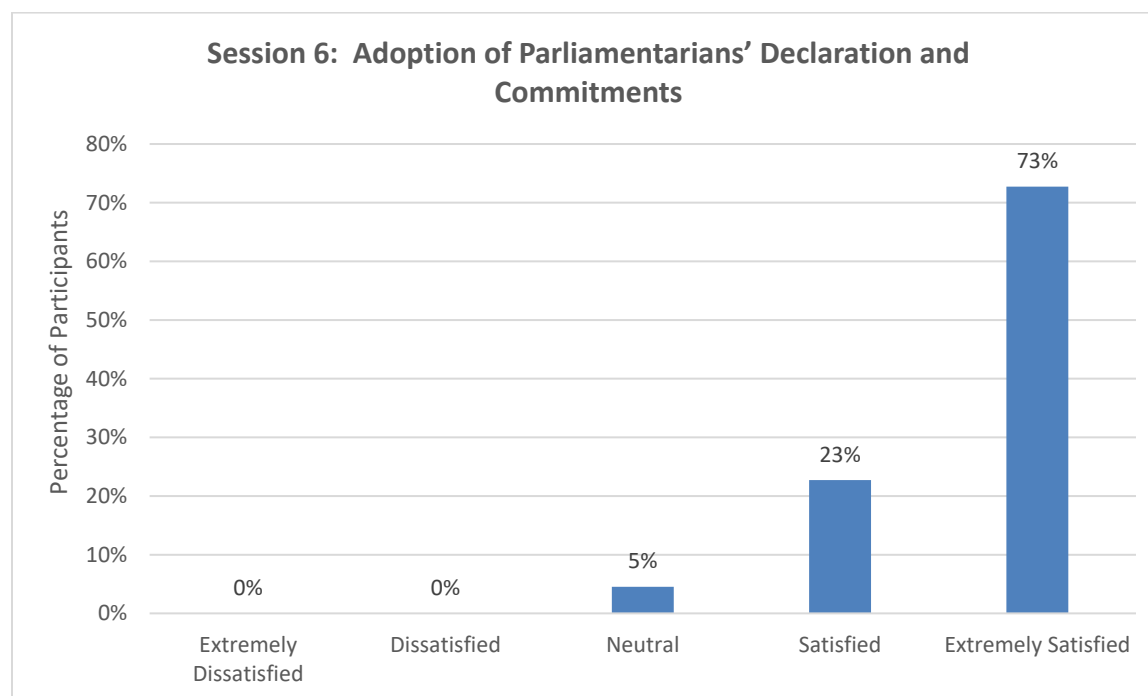
Highlighted Comments

- *“Cultural barriers need to be looked into more cautiously.”*
- *“Women entrepreneurship, leveraging women’s participation with IT, access to microfinance, ‘womenomics’ and work-life balance in Japan were worth learning.”*



Highlighted Comment

- *“More women migrate than men, poverty, employment and housing being main factors of migration, issues of sexual and gender violence and exploitation, human trafficking, were important to learn.”*



Highlighted Comment

- *The commitments were comprehensive, relevant and doable.*

General Highlighted Comments

Most Interesting:

- The sessions highlighted as most interesting were: Session 3 on Women’s Political Participation (expressed by 9 participants), Session 1 on Violence Against Women (expressed by 5 participants) and Session 4 on Women’s Economic Participation (expressed by 4 participants).
- *“Women’s Political Participation was the most interesting session for me because women need to consolidate their position in the political field.”*
- *“All sessions were interesting especially issues of survivor leadership, microfinance for women empowerment, factors of poverty and employment for migration.”*

Least Interesting:

- None of the participants highlighted a session as “least interesting.”

- *“Maybe war-torn topics [in Session 5 on Ensuring the Rights of the Vulnerable] were not relevant to me but I took it from the perspective of climate change.”*

Learn More:

- Participants have expressed that they would like to learn more about a range of topics. The commonly cited topics were: women’s economic participation (expressed by 6 participants) and ensuring the rights of the vulnerable, particularly in relations to climate change (expressed by 5 participants).
- *“I would like to learn more about migration and its effects on the local economy, and on women’s and girls’ health in their life course. I would also specifically like to request AFPPD to look into bringing on board the issue of “justice” for girls and women in conflict with the law.”*
- *“I would like to learn more about the points raised in Ms. Su-Mei Thompson’s presentation [in Session 4 on Women’s Economic Participation].”*
- *“I would like to learn more about the role of political parties in encouraging women in politics and enhancing their seats in the Parliament.”*

Future Actions:

- *“We will hold workshops for parliamentarians on the SDGs and the national strategy development plan to identify what can be achieved in the short, medium and long term, and ensure female MPs are on all Parliament Select Committees.”*
- *“We will submit a cabinet paper to the Executive, outlying the important discussions at this conference. We will also share the adopted Statement of Commitment to all MPs and the Executive.”*
- *“We will look into gender-responsive budgeting and allocate appropriate budgetary resources to gender equality and gender issues.”*
- *“We will take action to develop and pass the teenage pregnancy law. We will continue with advocacy and increase the budget allocation for health and education.”*

Recommendations:

- Recommendations in the comments centered on logistics issues, including time management and airport pick-ups, as well as the structure of the conference.
- *“The Statement of Commitment could have been more succinct. Many paragraphs could have been consolidated as they are similar in nature. However, overall, the Statement is excellent and a good point for progress in our fight to achieve gender equality. “*
- *“I found the different styles of Chairs to be interesting. I think there should be 4 main points summoned at the end of each panel. Questions at the end of the panel should be short and*

straightforward. Please ensure the Chair has a bell so the speakers are aware they have 2 minutes left to close and answer. The impact of the panel is lost when it drags on.”

- *“There needs to be more time for group discussions and more opportunities for participants to engage and network with each other.”*

Other:

- *“We need to make regional commitments together. “*
- *“The conference has been highly absorbing, educative and inspiring. I noticed the participants were deeply engaged, motivated, and eager to act on the issues deliberated in the conference. Profuse gratitude to AFPPD Secretariat.”*
- *“This was an excellent conference with very friendly and experienced staff. I enjoyed it very much.”*

Annex 8: Presentations and Speeches

Welcome Speech by Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi, MP Japan
The 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference of
The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)
November 4-5, 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

1. Your Excellency Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai
President of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand,
2. Your Excellency
Hon. Lord Tu'ivakano, Speaker of the Parliament, Former Prime Minister of Tonga
Hon. Ms. Niki Rattle, Speaker of the Parliament, The Cook Islands
Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni, Speaker of the Parliament, Fiji
Hon. Mr. Aderito Hugo da Costa, President of the Parliament, Timor-Leste
Ms. Gulmira Kudaiberdieva, Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan

3. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I request all participants present here today to join me in offering our deepest condolences, once again, to the people of Thailand on the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Thailand has entered a one-year national period of mourning on October 14. On behalf of all the members of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Government of Thailand for allowing us to continue our business here in Bangkok this week. In particular, I extend my profound thanks to the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand for co-hosting the 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference.

4. I would also like to thank all of our partner organizations present here today. We appreciate, in particular, the Japan Trust Fund, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) for their long-standing commitment to supporting AFPPD, further solidifying our partnerships to tackle population and health issues. I am also delighted to welcome our new partners who are joining us in working together toward our common goals.
5. Today, over 60 Parliamentarians and Ministers from Asia and the Pacific are meeting here in Bangkok at the 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference. We will take up women's rights and empowerment issues from a **life-cycle approach, under the theme of leaving no girls and no women behind, including the elderly and the vulnerable.**
6. The first Women Conference was held in 2003 in Manila. Since then, the AFPPD and member National Committees organized Women Conferences almost every year in our region, rotating the venues to various cities in Asia. Since 2013, when I became the AFPPD Chair, I have devoted substantial time and energy to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of global health.

Welcome Speech by Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi, MP Japan
The 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference of
The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)
November 4-5, 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

7. Despite our efforts, however, a staggering number of women and girls in Asia and the Pacific are faced with dire situations today. Over 40% of women in Asia report being victims of violence. Over 100 million of women in Asia report an unmet need for family planning. In South Asia, 46% of women aged 20 to 24 were married by age 18. Approximately two-thirds of women in Asia experience sexual harassment at work.
8. According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2016 just released by the World Economic Forum, there has been a harsh gender gap reality and uneven progress in Asia and the Pacific. One of the striking findings is a slow progress in closing gaps in economic and political participation by men and women. The region has two high achieving countries, the Philippines and New Zealand, in the top ten overall ranking list. But eight AFPPD member countries including my own are ranked below 100 out of 144 countries. As a legislator, I know that much more needs to be done in my own country as well as in the region.
9. None of these challenges can be overcome without forging meaningful partnerships globally, regionally and nationally. In this regard, my vision has been making the AFPPD into an effective, well-governed, and truly parliamentarian-driven multi-stakeholders network. I strongly believe that together we can become an integral part of solutions to the entrenched, deep-rooted discrimination and gender gap. Our collective political will is necessary.
10. For the past three years as AFPPD Chair, my efforts have centered on strengthening AFPPD's political influence. We organized the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development toward the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit in Tokyo last April. 140 parliamentarians from 64 countries jointly made a Declaration and Recommendations to the G7 Leaders. The AFPPD was successful in soliciting the G7 Leaders' collective commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. The G7 Leaders Declaration and outcome documents reflected extensively our own recommendations.
11. The G7 Leaders emphasized that **empowerment of women and girls and gender equality** are indispensable for their equal participation as agents of change in the economic, social and political spheres of our societies." They specifically aim to improve **women's access to higher-paying jobs** and to **reduce gender wage gaps.**"
12. The G7 Leaders also committed to invest in **Universal Health Coverage** as "UHC provides a comprehensive framework that underpins all of the health targets, ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights without discrimination of any kind, and addressing malnutrition as well as communicable and non-communicable diseases, including those due to environmental factors and ageing."
13. I recall one Canadian female parliamentarian at the G7 Global Conference expressing frustration at the slow progress in eliminating gender disparities, and another MP from

Welcome Speech by Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi, MP Japan
The 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference of
The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)
November 4-5, 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

Australia wondering and questioning why the Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment has not set any target year.

14. Every time we hold a conference like this one today, we, parliamentarians and ministers, have raised the right issues, asked the right questions, and made commitments. Now, the question that needs to be asked and answered is: "Why haven't we been able to eliminate the gender gap by now? How can we work together to break barriers to achieve gender equality?"
15. I hope that the 11th Women's Conference will provide us with a timely opportunity to reflect upon the AFPPD's prior conferences, and reaffirm our renewed commitment through collective political will. The 11th Women's Conference coincides with the first year of the AFPPD's four-year strategic cycle, leading up to 2019, as well as the first year of the SGDs era, leading up to 2030. We, AFPPD member Parliamentarians and Ministers, need to intensify and sustain our political influence by monitoring progress and our actions at the national, regional and global levels.
16. I wish you all a productive, inspiring, and intellectually stimulating discussion and knowledge sharing at this conference. And I hope you will gain at least one key insight, which triggers you to become a part of solutions, and to assist women and girls in leading a safe, healthy and dignified life throughout their years.
17. Thank you.

Speech of His Excellency Professor Pornpetch Wichitcholchai
President of the National Legislative Assembly at the Opening of
the 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarian conference on
Friday 4th Nov at Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel, Bangrak, Bangkok

1. His Excellency's Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Honorable Members of Parliament from around Asia and the Pacific, Honorable Members of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand, Honorable Chair – Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Honorable Secretary-General of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

2. Let me start by saying on behalf of the National Legislative Assembly and the people of Thailand we appreciate the condolences expressed by Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and all of you. Thank you.

3. Thank you also for inviting me here today to deliver my speech and to declare the official opening of the two day -11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarian Conference.

4. Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to say that it is at an opportune time that this conference is being held and is of

great benefit to Thailand and our current discussions on the sustainable development agenda.

5. After 1 year of the UN declaration on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Thailand has achieved what it set out to accomplish with their G-77 Chair. The Kingdom has hosted G-77 meetings, allowing the country to share its Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) with member nations and we have shared our challenges and opportunities regarding the 2030 Agenda in all these forums.

6. The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy was introduced by His Majesty Late King Bhumibhol in 1974 to improve the lives of the Thai people, and over the past 40 years this philosophy has proven to be successful in achieving this objective. Since its inception this philosophy has helped to shape the direction of many government projects.

7. Based on this philosophy we drafted several of our National Economic and Social Development Plans and we are currently implementing our Eleventh Plan period (2012-16), the protection of women's economic, social and cultural rights is a focus of the Women's Development Plan.

8. This philosophy is further reflected in Thailand's framework for the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan which is ready and will start implementation in 2017-2021. The framework will bring all Thai people towards sustainable development, as **no one should be left behind**. The highlights of

the framework involving the advancement of human resources are the enhancement of mothers' and children's health, direct government funding to schools in remote areas, the development of a system to screen and allocate teachers, a focus on the "social determinants of health", and preparations for an ageing society.

9. Distinguished Guests Ladies and Gentlemen, as President of Thailand's National Legislative Assembly, we are responsible for ensuring and devotes our efforts to enact laws in accordance with international standard and the concept of natural law. In addition, the National Legislative Assembly also gives top priority to the public participation in the laws by opening opportunity for them to express their opinions directly to the Assembly. Let me also inform you that in Thailand the Voices of people are a strong pillar of our parliament.

10. Distinguished Guests Ladies and Gentlemen, let me highlight some of our achievements.

11. Thailand has helped to narrow down the poverty that it faced just a few decades ago. One of Thailand's greatest successes is the elimination of poverty. Thailand has placed an emphasis on narrowing the gender equality gap.

12. We have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1985 and its Optional Protocol in 2000, and endorsed the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA). My country has strived hard to address the issues

of Violence Against Women and promulgated the Protection of Domestic Violence Victim Act in 2007 and a number of the penal codes and sex discriminated laws have largely been revised.

13. In our continued effort to promote gender equality and women's empowerment we introduced Gender Responsive Budgeting in 2006 to ensure and promote knowledge creation and understanding on integrating gender perspective into the budgeting process.

14. To ensure Thai citizens have access to affordable or proper public health care the Universal Coverage Scheme was introduced in 2002 and has focused on human life-cycle development to promote quality growth of children from birth on, so that one can have a decent employment.

15. Very recently we have introduced the law for the Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy, which aims to alleviate this problem by ensuring that young people have access to reproductive health information and services. Additionally, in the event a young girl does become pregnant, she will be able to continue her studies while receiving support and assistance for the birth.

16. In 2017, as the world enters the second year of the implementation of the SDGs, Thailand will be ready to present the National Voluntary Review report in New York and I hope that we will be presenting a very progressive report.

17. We believe, and I urge the representatives of the countries present here today, to let us work together to address the severe inequalities that occur around the world, to better protect our environment for us and our future generations, to build a brighter and stronger sustainable future ensuring that no one is left behind.

18. On behalf of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand and of my own, I do wish the deliberations held in the next two days are successful and all participants will receive useful knowledge and experience as well.

19. Kob Khun and Sawasdee Krub (Thank you.)

**Keynote Address at the
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
“Ensuring Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment from a Life-Cycle
Approach Leaving No Girls and No Women Behind”**

Ms. Gulmira Kudaiberdieva, Vice Prime Minister, Kyrgyzstan

**Distinguished Forum Participants,
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, let me extend my sincere condolences to the Government and people of Thailand on the occasion of the death of the King, His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej. The sustainable development of Thailand is inextricably entwined with his name and his workmanship. The people of the Kyrgyz Republic wholeheartedly share with you the anguish of irreparable loss.

Dear Friends,

Let me extend the words of gratitude to the hosts and the Government of Thailand for providing the excellent platform for addressing relevant issues pertaining women empowerment.

Gender equality - is not only a basic human right; its achievement results in tremendous socio-economic outcomes and implications. The empowerment of women contributes to development and well-being of countries, improved productivity and economic growth.

Nonetheless, the issues of gender equality remain relevant.

Today, women in many countries of the world encounter multiple challenges – varying from lack of access to decent jobs, occupational segregation and gender based wage gap. Often, they have limited access to basic education and health care. Violence against women remains one of the most widespread violations of human rights and, moreover, falls under the least prosecuted crimes.

According to "UN Women" findings six in ten women in the world are exposed to physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. More than 60 million girls become child brides, and more than 100 million lives of girls are "lost" in the result of prenatal sex selection and preference towards boys. More than 600 thousands of women and girls a year are trafficked abroad, mainly for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Constitutions of 139 countries in the world safeguard the equality of women and men, too many women are denied of justice and protection from violence. This is not owing to lack of knowledge, but rather the implications caused by lack of investments and political will, unwillingness to meet the needs of women and protect their fundamental rights.

Let me briefly report to you on the state of things in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Kyrgyz Republic is a mountainous country situated in Central Asia. This year on 31 of August the Kyrgyz Nation has celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Independence.

Over the past years, we have experienced all kinds of turmoil; along with numerous notable achievements. We have reinforced the Kyrgyz statehood, retained the unity of the nation and continue relentless efforts to build the advanced, competitive market economy. However, above all, we have laid the solid foundation for democratic development of our country.

The Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic safeguards equal rights and opportunities for men and women and prohibits gender based discrimination. Kyrgyzstan was among the first few countries of former Soviet Union that adopted the Law "On the Basics of State Guarantees of Gender Equality in the Kyrgyz Republic", whereby it enforced the system of parliamentary quotas for women.

The arrangement of quotas for candidates nominated by party lists is also enforced in the Election Code of the Kyrgyz Republic whereby the representation of women in the national parliament should make 30% of the total number of MPs.

The National Strategy on Gender Equality until 2020 was adopted along with the Plan of Actions for achieving these targets. The National Council on Gender Development chaired by Vice-Prime Minister was established.

A lot has been achieved in the field of gender policy in Kyrgyzstan since the 20th anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women. Three reviews of the progress were carried out - every five years. Currently, there is the full-fledged gender legislation in the country. The special arrangements to support women's political participation are introduced. The gender based statistics in all areas are in place and steadily progressing. Gender based budgeting is widely practiced.

There are hundreds of women's and gender organizations leading their activity in diverse areas to implement the gender policy.

All of these testify to the commitment of the Kyrgyz Republic to promote gender based policy.

The Kyrgyz Republic has committed itself to promote gender equality as its overarching priority which is enshrined in the universally accepted human rights related Conventions of the United Nations.

In the course of implementation of international and national commitments, Kyrgyzstan presents Periodic Reports to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

According to annual assessment of gender equality progress Kyrgyzstan shows annual improvement of ranking. Nonetheless, such assessments as the United Nations Development Programme Gender Inequality Index, the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index, regrettably, show that a country is below the average of the Central Asia. Notwithstanding the fact that Kyrgyzstan has achieved notable progress in education, and consistently lower scores in terms of economic and political empowerment of women, adversely affect the total scores.

Kyrgyzstan has made significant progress in the increase of women representation in the Parliament. Currently the women representation in the national Parliament makes 24%. The women representation in city councils - 31%. At local councils women representation makes 16%. However, in rural areas these figures are slightly lower - 14%.

40% of civil servants and 25% of the country's political positions are filled by women.

The women of the Kyrgyz Republic are also significantly represented in the municipal service – 35%.

The Kyrgyz Republic is the agrarian country. Nowadays the number of rural women make around 1,9 mln people, in other words, 65 % of the total population of the country. 52 % of them constitute the economically active population.

To that end, the country is implementing the program "Economic Empowerment of Rural Women" in cooperation with the UN World Food Programme and "UN Women".

Definitely, there are other challenges, for example, increased birth rate in adolescents. Child marriage, teenage pregnancy and other gender inequalities undermine the health and rights of girls, jeopardizing the ambitious plan of global development according to the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, in its State of Population Report 2016 statements of warning.

Owing to economic or social reasons, the rate of early marriages in Kyrgyzstan remains high. According to the statistics, about 12% of women in the country get married before they reach 18 years of age. This suggests that young girls are denied of accessing education and implementing their capacity.

To that end, the National Strategy for Gender Equality pays special attention to the political leadership of women, their economic participation and the empowerment of women, especially in rural areas.

It is gratifying to note that the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic just recently adopted the Law banning the marriage ritual (nikah) with underage girls.

Also, the Government has recently developed and presented the draft of the Comprehensive Family Support and Child Protection Program for 2017-2027. This Program aims at creating enabling environment for development of the institution of the family in Kyrgyzstan and heightening the family values. In this regard, we closely cooperate with representatives of international and non-governmental organizations as well as expert community.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion I would like to note once again that ensuring equality of women and men in Kyrgyzstan is recognized as one of the overarching development goals. This recognition is reflected in the country's efforts to fulfill its international commitments to ensure gender equality as well as the national legislation. This provides good reasons to believe that Kyrgyzstan will continue fulfilling its commitment to promote gender based policy.

On the whole, the range of proven policy options available to the government has increased over the last decade. These options include: tightening bans on harmful practices such as child marriages; providing training on basic life skills; comprehensive sexual education for girls, approaching the age of puberty; implementation of gender-sensitive policies concerning employment and private life issues. Currently we have to address the challenge of scaling up these activities in order to reach out as many girls and women as possible, especially representing the poorest and most vulnerable communities.

At the end of my address let me, once again, extend the words of gratitude to the hosts for provided platform and warm and friendly atmosphere to the people of Thailand.

Thank you for your attention!



**PARLAMENTO
NACIONAL**
República Democrática de Timor-Leste



Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
Payathai Plaza Bldg. Suite 9C, Payathai Road, Bangkok 10400 Thailand Tel. (0662) 219-2903/4 | Fax: (622)
219-2905

**11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference on 4-5 November 2016 in
Bangkok, Thailand.**

Key Note speech

**Timor-Leste Country note: “National efforts of Timor-Leste related to adolescent
sexual and reproductive health and teenage pregnancies.”**

Statement
of Hon. Mr. Adérito Hugo da Costa, President of National Parliament
Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Honorable Mr. President of AFPPD, Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi
Honorable Ministers and Members of Parliaments
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me and I feel very inspired to be taking part in this 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference. It is a privilege to have been invited to share some thoughts on the efforts of Timor-Leste in relation to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and teenage pregnancies.

Before I start, on behalf of the people and the State of Timor-Leste, I'd like to extend our condolences to the people and the State of Thailand for your recent loss of **King Bhumibol Adulyajed**. I hope that we can all keep on fighting for the things that **King Bhumibol Adulyajed** dreamt and hoped for.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The issues related to women and reproductions are now important all over the world, and are also connected to the progress of the participation of women in politics. And on this topic of women's participation in politics (as members of the Parliament and members of the Government) I would like to share some data that shows that nowadays the participation of women is increasing. You can see that in these numbers.

If we look at the ranking, the countries that we can say that are in the top 10 of women's participation in politics are: Rwanda, where in the 2013 election women got 63.8%; Bolivia, with 53.1% in the 2014 election; Cuba, with 48.9% in the 2013 election; the Seychelles, with 43.8% in the 2011 election; Sweden, with 43.6% in the 2014 election; Senegal, with 42.7% in the 2012 election; Mexico, with 42.4% in the 2015 election; South Africa, with 41.7% in the 2014 election; Ecuador, with 41.6%; and Finland with 41.5% of participation of women in politics.¹

Timor-Leste, in spite of all the challenges that we still face, was able to reach MDG 3 on Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women. We have many women elected as Members of Parliament, a total of 25, which means that we have a percentage of 38.2% of MPs who are women. This is a high percentage for women members of Parliament in the Asia Pacific region. From the data provided by IPU we can see that there are no ASEAN or Asia Pacific countries in the top 10 of women's participation in politics, but when we check the top 20 ranking we will find Timor-Leste representing the Asia Pacific and Southeast Asian countries. The data shows us that Timor-Leste is the better qualified country in the region with a percentage of 38.5%. Its position is higher than Thailand with only 6.1%, Singapore with 23.8%, Indonesia with 17.1% and Malaysia with 10.4%. In Latin America there are three countries that are more advanced regarding the participation of women in politics, which are Bolivia, Cuba and México, as mentioned before. The United States are a leading democracy in the world but their position in the ranking is not so good, as there are only 19.4% of women legislators in the Senate.² In order to promote the participation of women in politics the National Parliament of Timor-Leste established a Women's Resource Center that helped to ensure that gender equality is reflected in the Civil Code and Labor Law. We have been implementing gender responsive budgeting in the State Budget, we also have reached our goals in the girl-boy ratio in junior and senior high school and the rates are also similar for girls and boys in primary school. Timor-Leste has improved infant health, the child mortality rate

¹ www.ipu.org

² www.ipu.org

decreased and our country has achieved the first targets in the MDG 4 that deal with reducing child mortality.

The Government is making an effort to further widen access to health care all over the country, through the Integrated Community Health Service, that has already reinforced basic emergency obstetric care and training of nurses and midwives. As a result, child health and women's reproductive health indicators have improved. Infant mortality rate and under-five mortality have decreased to 50% of the 2001 levels with 45 per 1000 live births and 64 per 1000 live births in 2009–2010. The percentage of pregnant women that had prenatal care, at least once, from an health professional increased from 43% in 2001 to 88% in 2009–2010, and maternal mortality decreased from 660 to 557 per 100 000 live births. But the maternal mortality rate is still the highest in the Asia and Pacific region. Even if we improved access to health care, still only 30% received assistance from trained health workers in 2009–2010 and the use of contraceptives was still low at 22%. The total fertility rate of 5.7 in 2010 was also the highest in the region, placing an extra burden on women, busy with taking care of the children and their responsibilities with house chores, and preventing women from getting involved in income generating economic activities.³

We need a lot of effort put together to bring about a national and global commitment on women and girls development. The current situation with early marriages and early pregnancies causes for many girls to drop out of school too early and it potentially perpetuates the poverty cycle. Girls who get married or become mothers before 18 years old face sexual and physical domestic violence from their husbands and that increases the risk of maternal mortality and morbidity. Youngsters, girls and boys, lack information and knowledge to protect themselves from unexpected early pregnancies. And so, in order to overcome this situation, the Government has introduced a strategic approach to improve the reproductive and sexual health of girls and boys. This strategic approach focus on the sexual and reproductive health of youngsters and teenagers in order to develop the youth sector in a positive way.

Excellencies,
Honorable MPs and Members of Government,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The effort aims at supporting girls and boys in their transition into adulthood. The approach needs to support young people to achieve: good health, capacity, competences, and knowledge to become productive adults in their community; adequate preparation to fulfill their roles and obligations in society and being able to make choices. Our Government established programs for Youth and Teenagers through school, households and the communities. The focus is on young people, on developing knowledge and understanding appropriate for their age on sexual education and reproductive issues; the target is for youth, both students and those who left school, to be able to have easy access to key information through modern means of communication when there are training

³ This summary is based on: *Governo Timor-Leste. Tinan 2010. Objetivo Desenvolvimento Milénio tinan 2010: Agora, ita iha- ne'ebé? Iha tinan 2015, ita hakarak iha-ne'ebé?* Dili; *Direção Nacional Estatística. Tinan 2010. Demographic and Health Survey. 2009-10. National Statistics Directorate. Ministry of Finance. Dili (November); Ministry of Finance and World Bank. 2008. Timor-Leste: Poverty in a Young Nation. Washington DC (November); National Statistics Directorate and United Nations Population Fund. 2011. Household and Population Census 2010. Suco Report. Volume 4. Dili (July).*

sessions or providing direct information to the target groups. There will be a handbook on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for young people who left school, available to everybody through the youth training centers. The Ministry of Education provides support by developing a school curriculum that includes issues of CSE.

The strategies include evidence and research, communication and advocacy, and also good services coordination to support the fulfillment of young people's right to sexual and reproductive health. Youth friendly health services provide support, especially giving married couples access to contraception. We encourage youth leaders to pay attention to the area of sexual and reproductive health by working together with the Youth Parliament and former members of the Youth Parliament, helping them to become guides and to educate their peers.

These programs are also supported by the new Youth Policy recently approved by the Government. This continues the support to the implementation, monitoring, and work to develop a national action plan for youth, a structure for the coordinated implementation and a platform for oversight with the aim of turning this new Youth Policy into reality.

Specific research is being carried out on key issues for youth such as early pregnancy and early marriage. With a total of 11,983⁴ young women under 19 years old that had access to prenatal and postnatal care, according to the data from the Ministry of Health, we have a baseline for a survey to be able to provide adequate support from the reproductive health services and to work on the prevention of early pregnancies.

The Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice⁵ carried out an analysis of reproductive health rights as an instrument to advocate for specific policies from the political decision makers. The result of this analysis provides evidence that there is a lack of access to reproductive health and sexual education which contributes to unexpected early pregnancies and early marriages.

This analysis also provided guidelines to improve access to information on sexual and reproductive health and contraception services for women and girls, especially those living in remote areas.

Education is the key to achieve good health and prosperity. Reality shows us that women and girls are more vulnerable and more affected by poverty when they have a low level of education or no schooling at all.

Our Government has started a policy to ensure that girls can have access to school again after delivering a baby. Even if the approval for this policy is still pending, the current Government has put in place a temporary mechanism to facilitate the process for the student to continue her studies through transfer of the girl to another school after delivering the baby (after a request from the concerned student, for social and cultural reasons), and providing a special time and place for pregnant girl students to attend their final exams (to avoid pressure from other students and for them to feel safe). And also, the Ministry of Education^o is integrating comprehensive education in the school

⁴ Ministry of Health Report 2014

⁵ Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice, 2016, Assessment of Sexual and Reproductive Health

curriculum for girls and boys which includes knowledge on human development, disease prevention, communication skills, how to make decisions on self protection from disease and on healthy sexual relations.⁶

Excellencies,
Honorable MPs and members of Government,
Ladies and gentlemen,

That's our role as members of Parliament and as the voice of women and men, girls and boys, of the vulnerable, of old people, of minority groups, we have to make sure that education is promoted and developed for the young and that they're taught life skills. We are committed to the implementation of the existing plan and activities to promote access to sexual education and reproductive health to women and girls. The Parliamentary Committee on Health, Education, Culture, Veterans and Gender Equality has an important role in cooperation with the Women's Parliamentary Caucus.

Recently, the National Parliament of Timor-Leste organized a National Conference on the Right to Sexual and Reproductive Health which approved many recommendations to the Parliament, the Government, civil society, religious groups, the UN and international agencies to accelerate the decrease of maternal mortality, infertility, early pregnancies and early marriages.

Each entity will ensure the good implementation of the 5 CEDAW keys from the observations to Timor-Leste regarding: 1) Access to education for teenage girls after being pregnant – strategy for the establishment of a return to school policy for girls who dropped out of school because they were pregnant. 2) Comprehensive school curriculum on sexual rights and reproductive health and its implementation. 3) Human rights based approach to the decrease of morbidity and mortality in Timor-Leste. 4) Reinforcement of reeducation measures regarding malnutrition and nutrients targeting teenage girls, pregnant women, and children. 5) Strengthening measures for young women, teenagers and women in rural areas, and also people with disabilities, to have access to reproductive and sexual health and to emergency health services.

The Parliament will ask the Government to continue intervening in areas such as: 1) widen the knowledge of youth who left school on CSE training; involve young men in the problems relating to sex life and reproductive health; systematize school input on CSE (reform of the whole curriculum, basis for implementation in schools, establishment in the curriculum content, teacher training, support to learning, and mobilization of schools with community involvement).

The Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports will systematize a training package at the youth training centers, including skills to resist, healthy life styles and CSE content; develop video material as basis for sexual education and reproductive health for the whole country; use TV to disseminate information on healthy life; work together with the Churches youth organizations; and launch a CSE website for East Timorese girls and boys. 2) Provide health care services through the quick development of actions for teenage

⁶ Dulce Soares, 2016, Sexual rights and reproductive health, sexual education and life skills

health (AA-HA) Platform focusing on spacing childbirths. 3) mobilize youth representatives in villages to disseminate knowledge on sexual problems and reproductive health. 4) Strengthen a youth policy and system with a coherent approach to sexual and reproductive health; continue to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the youth policy; develop a specific approach to deal with pregnant teenagers. 5) Reinforce the strategy for advocacy for the return to school policy for girls after delivering a baby, and involve the media in information campaigns regarding sexual and reproductive health for youngsters.

Before I conclude, I'd like to emphasize that the investment in girls is an investment in the families, the communities and the whole society. When women and girls have a healthy development, humankind and the State will also have a healthy development. Finally, our role as members of Parliament is to continue to promote, advocate, and guarantee the access of women and girls to education, including access to sexual education and reproductive health. We will continue our efforts to achieve the goals of the National Strategic Development Plan in 2030. The East Timorese people will be healthy, as a result of the availability of high quality health services. This will lead to poverty reduction, and it will increase the people's income and improve national productivity.

Thank you.

Violence Against Women

Ingrid FitzGerald
UNFPA APRO Gender and Human Rights Adviser
4 November 2016



Defining VAW

- Violence against women (VAW): *'any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.'*
- It encompasses, but is not limited to:
 - physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women;
 - non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;
 - physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere;
 - trafficking in women and forced prostitution; and
 - physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the state, wherever it occurs.

SDG 5.2 Eliminate all forms of VAWG

VIOLENCE AFFECTS GIRLS AND WOMEN AT EVERY AGE AND STAGE OF LIFE



A FEW COMMON TYPES OF VIOLENCE

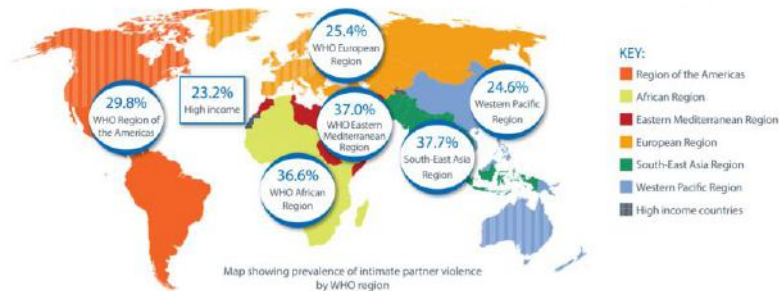
Source: Raising Voices

Prevalence of violence - global

PREVALENCE →

1 in 3 women

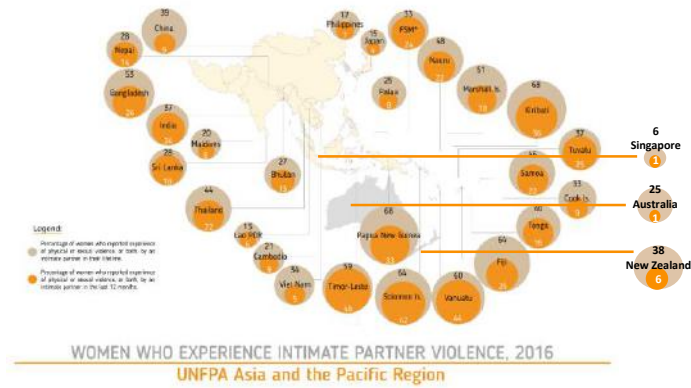
throughout the world will experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner



Source: World Health Organization (WHO)

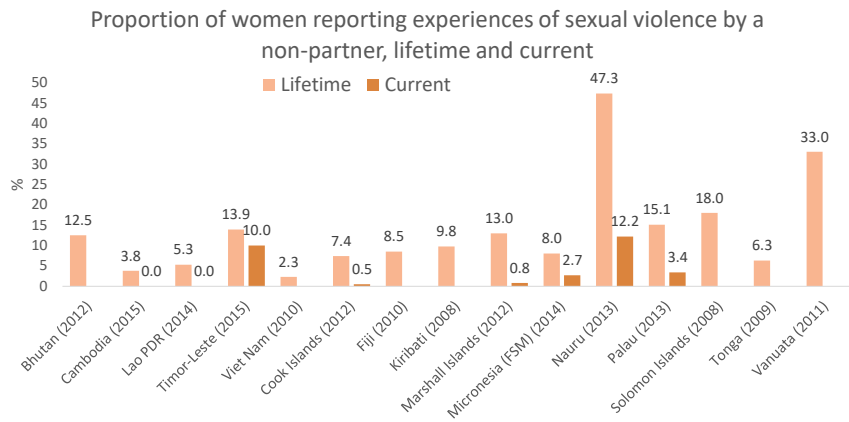
www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/VAW_infographic.pdf?ua=1

Prevalence of violence – Asia-Pacific



Source: UNFPA 2016 Regional Snapshot, kNowVAWdata
<http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/publications/violence-against-women-regional-snapshot-2016-0>

Prevalence of violence – Asia-Pacific



Source: UNFPA 2016 Regional Snapshot, kNowVAWdata
<http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/publications/violence-against-women-regional-snapshot-2016-0>

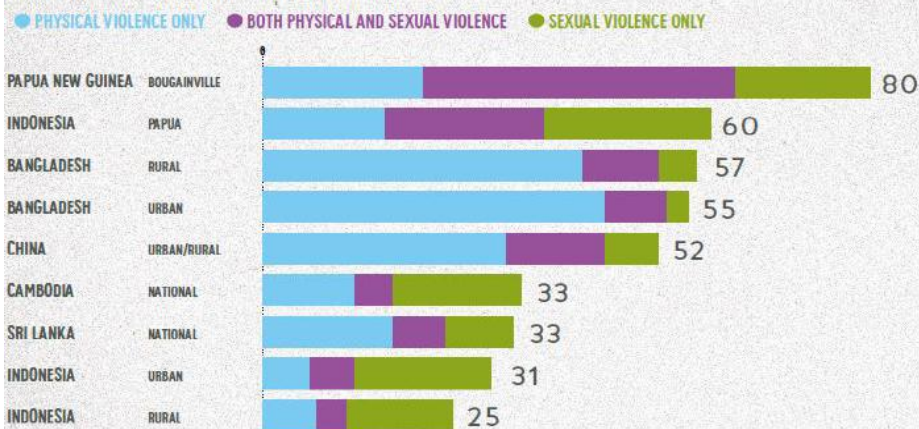
For the UNFPA APRO region (37 countries):

- 28 countries have done a VAW prevalence survey
 - 6 countries did more than one survey
- 24 have national data on intimate partner violence
 - 20 have data for all types of violence for SDG indicator 5.2.1
- 17 (+ 4*) have national data on sexual violence by non-partners
 - 9 have data for SDG indicator 5.2.2

* Available from DHS, however not published in the national reports

Intimate Partner Violence

PERCENTAGE OF EVER-PARTNERED MEN REPORTING PERPETRATION OF PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, BY SITE

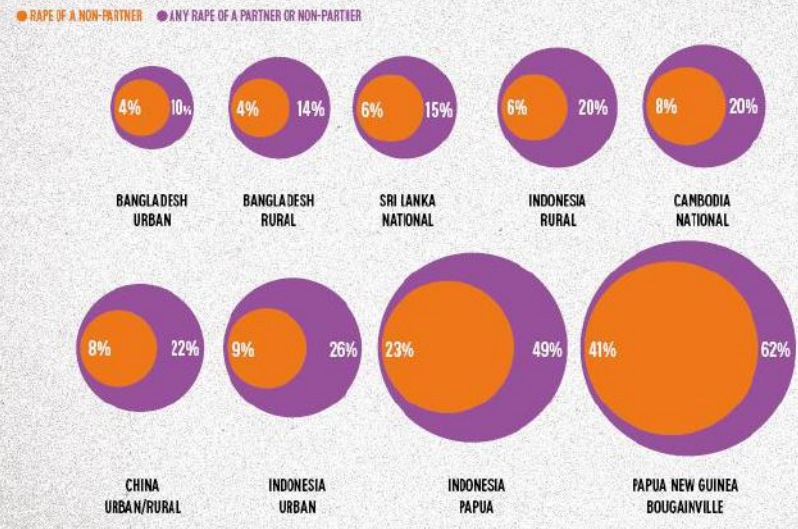


Patterns of partner violence also varied across sites

Source: Partners for Prevention Phase I

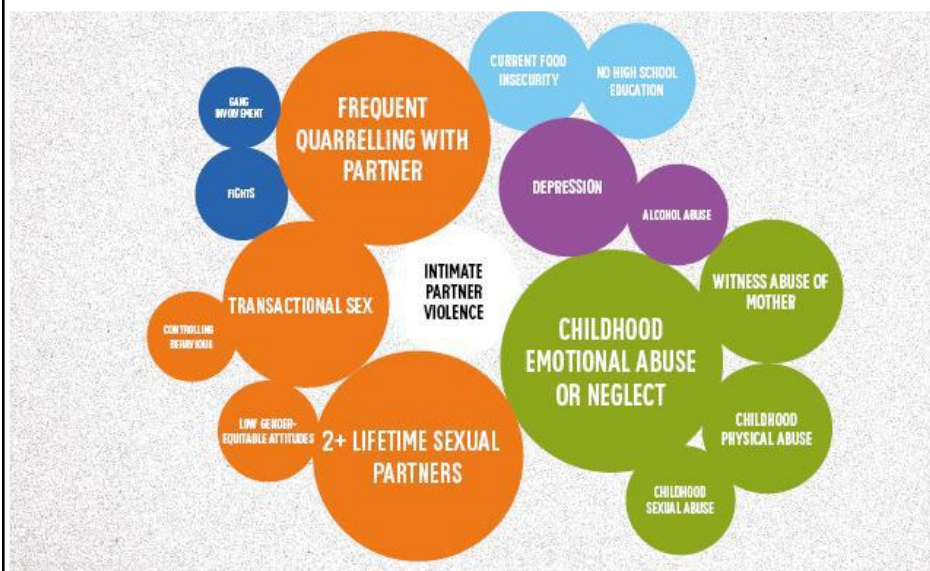
Sexual Violence

PERCENTAGE OF MEN REPORTING PERPETRATION OF RAPE AGAINST A WOMAN OR GIRL, BY TYPE AND SITE



Source: Partners for Prevention Phase I

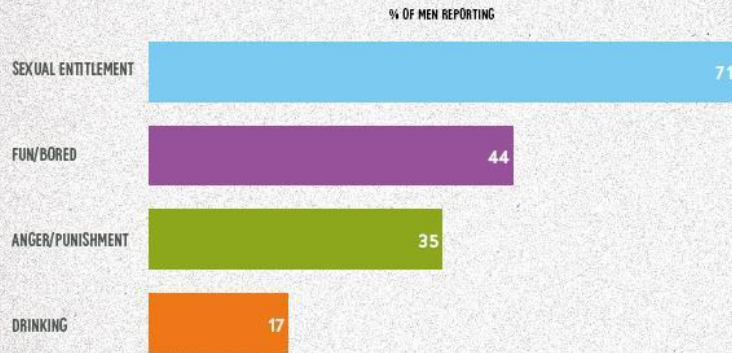
Factors associated with men's use of intimate partner violence



Source: Partners for Prevention Phase I

Factors associated with sexual violence

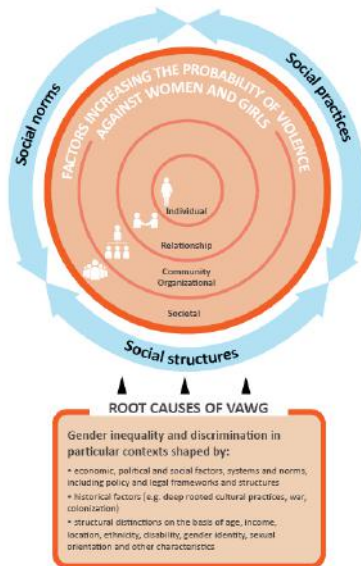
MOTIVATIONS FOR RAPE, BY MEN WHO REPORTED EVER RAPING ANY WOMAN OR GIRL, INCLUDING PARTNERS AND NON-PARTNERS



The most commonly reported motivation for perpetrating rape across sites was related to men's sense of sexual entitlement

Source: Partners for Prevention Phase I

Risk factors for VAW - IPV



Individual & relationship

- Socio-economic status, poverty
- Educational disparity between spouses
- Number of children
- Young age
- Lack of autonomy, attitudes accepting of unequal gender roles and violence, acceptance of violence.
- Prior victimization, history of exposure to violence in the childhood
- Disability
- Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- Depression, harmful use of alcohol/illicit drug use
- Marital discord/dissatisfaction, separation

Community/organizational

- Acceptance of traditional gender roles
- Low proportion of women with high level of autonomy
- Limited collective activity among women
- Acceptance of violence, weak sanctions against violence
- Poverty, unemployment, female illiteracy
- Discriminatory attitudes and practices towards specific groups of women*

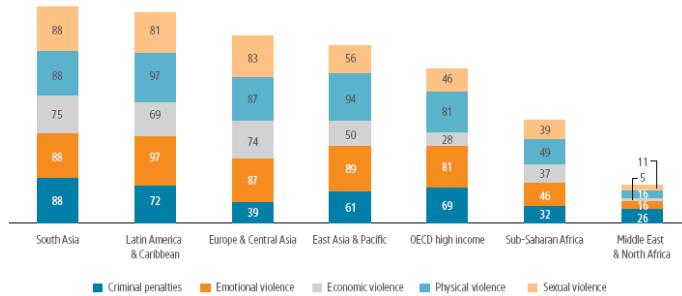
Societal

- Gender norms that perpetuate inequality
- Low proportion of women with higher education
- Discriminatory laws and policies towards women (property, inheritance, family laws)
- Support for family privacy and autonomy

Source: UN Prevention Framework

Legislation

FIGURE 1.14 COVERAGE AND SCOPE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAWS, BY PERCENTAGE OF ECONOMIES IN A REGION



- 127 of 173 economies have laws on violence against women. 95 cover both physical and sexual violence. 122 cover psychological violence. Economic violence is not covered in 94 countries.
- 74 percent of countries in South Asia have laws covering all four forms of violence. 44 percent of countries in East Asia and the Pacific have such laws.

Source: World Bank: Women, Business and the Law 2016

Response to violence: quality essential services

TOO MANY WOMEN & GIRLS EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE



MORE THAN 1 IN 3 WOMEN WORLDWIDE have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner¹



MORE THAN 1 IN 5 GIRLS WORLDWIDE have been sexually abused in childhood¹

THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS IS SEVERE



WOMEN DO NOT USE SERVICES FOR MANY REASONS



- Poor quality services
- Lack of knowledge about services
- Do not expect any help from services
- Doubt that services will keep them safe
- Lack of availability of services
- Shame & stigma of reporting

LACK OF QUALITY SERVICES FURTHER HARMS WOMEN & PREVENTS RECOVERY

Why aren't women seeking help?

- Multiple barriers prevent women from seeking help through formal and informal channels
- Socio-cultural Barriers - Attitudes that discourage a survivor from seeking help, which may include: seeing violence as a part of life, embarrassment/shame, fear of what others will think
- Structural Barriers – Location, implementation and quality of services that determine who can easily access them

What are “essential” services?

- Essential services
 - Critical components of coordinated multi-sectoral responses for women and girls subject to violence.
 - Viewed from a victim/survivor perspective
 - Apply in all legal traditions and contexts
 - Apply universally - in all countries, including low to middle income countries
- Quality standards
 - Describe how services should be implemented to ensure that the essential services will be of sufficient quality to effectively address a woman's needs (in relation to health, justice, etc.)

Essential Services Package

Module 1. Overview and introduction	Module 2. Health	Module 3. Justice and policing	Module 4. Social services	Module 5. Coordination and governance of coordination
Chapter 1: Introduction to essential services package	Chapter 1: Introduction to essential health services	Chapter 1: Introduction to essential justice and policing services	Chapter 1: Introduction to essential social services	Chapter 1: Introduction to essential coordination and governance action
Chapter 2: Common principles, characteristics and foundational elements	Chapter 2: Framework for essential services package	Chapter 2: Framework for essential services package	Chapter 2: Framework for essential services package	Chapter 2: Framework for essential services package
Chapter 3: How to use this tool	Chapter 3: Guidelines for essential health services	Chapter 3: Guidelines for essential justice and policing services	Chapter 3: Guidelines for essential social services	Chapter 3: Guidelines for essential coordination and governance actions
Chapter 4: Tools and resources	Chapter 4: Tools and resources	Chapter 4: Tools and resources	Chapter 4: Tools and resources	Chapter 4: Tools and resources

Key principles and characteristics of the Essential Services Framework

Principles	A rights based approach	Advancing gender equality and women's empowerment	Culturally and age appropriate and sensitive
	Survivor centred approach	Safety is paramount	Perpetrator accountability
Common characteristics	Availability		Accessibility
	Adaptability		Appropriateness
	Prioritize safety		Informed consent and confidentiality
	Data collection and information management		Effective communication
	Linking with other sectors and agencies through referral and coordination		

Essential services – key components

Essential Health Services	Essential Legal/Justice Services	Social Services	Coordination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First line support includes: • Identification and care, including attention to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate emotional/psychological health needs • Immediate physical health needs • Ongoing safety needs • Additional care for victims of sexual assault • Additional care for mental health • Training of health-care providers on intimate partner violence and sexual assault • Additional care must address: depression, anxiety, alcohol abuse, STIs, unwanted pregnancies, and other health issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting to police, documentation of report • Advisory services provided by lawyers • Survivor and witness interviewing, evidence-gathering, processing, & analysis; medico-legal examinations • Arrest and processing • Criminal injuries compensation schemes • Trial/hearing processes • Cross-cutting services continually and consistently considered and applied throughout the justice process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis information & counseling • Help lines • Safe accommodation • Material and financial aid • (Creation, recovery, replacement of) identity documents • Legal rights and info • Psycho-social support and counseling • Specific services for children affected by violence • Community information, education, and outreach • Economic empowerment/income generating activities • Data collection and information management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination → greater impact and reach, lower cost • Recognition of the multiple needs • Allocation of resources • Consistent messaging • Capacity development → informed and skilled providers • Standard protocols → formal structures, governance, standard setting • Inclusive approach • Monitoring and evaluation of coordination at national and local levels

Essential Health Services

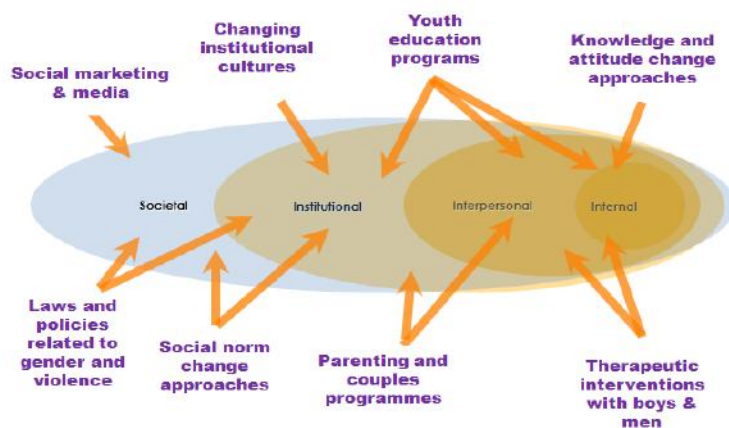
Essential Health Services	Core Elements:
1. Identification of Survivors of intimate partner violence:	1. Information 2. Identification of women suffering IPV
2. First Line Support: Address four needs of women subjected to violence, (1) immediate emotional/psychological health needs, (2) immediate physical health needs, (3) ongoing safety needs, (4) ongoing support and mental health needs.	2.1 Women-centred care 2.2 Mandatory Reporting
3. Care of Injuries and Urgent Medical Needs :	3.1 History and examination 3.2 Emergency treatment
4. Sexual Assault Exam and Care: Provide acute and long term care, particularly mental health care.	4.1 Complete history 4.2 Emergency contraception 4.3 HIV post-exposure prophylaxis 4.4 Post exposure prophylaxis for sexually transmitted infections
5. Mental Health Assessment and Care: Offer help and techniques to women to reduce stress and promote healing; Recognise those who suffer more severely and help them obtain professional care.	5.1 Mental health care for survivors of intimate partner violence 5.2 Basic psychosocial support 5.3 More severe mental health problems
6. Documentation (medico-legal): Record the details of any consultation (what was said by the patient and what was seen as done by the health care provider); Forensic examination if the woman consents to it.	6.1 Comprehensive and accurate documentation 6.2 Collection and documentation of forensic specimens 6.3 Providing written evidence and court attendance

Prevention – what works

Impact of intervention	EFFECTIVE (Impact on VAWG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfinance and gender transformative approaches • Relationship-level interventions • Group education with community outreach (men/boys) • Community mobilization – changing social norms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social empowerment interventions with vulnerable groups • Alcohol reduction programmes (limited evidence from LMICs)
	PROMISING (Impact on risk factors only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenting programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole-school interventions
	CONFLICTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bystander interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School curriculum-based interventions
	INEFFECTIVE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single component communication campaigns • WASH interventions in schools
		FAIR EVIDENCE	INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE

Source: What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls

Transforming masculinities



Source: Partners for Prevention Phase II

Prevention: Not just working with men, but transformation of social norms

Evidence of effective prevention projects:

Gender transformative interventions are promising:

- ✓ address masculinities
- ✓ sustained intensity
- ✓ combined approaches
- ✓ work with different groups



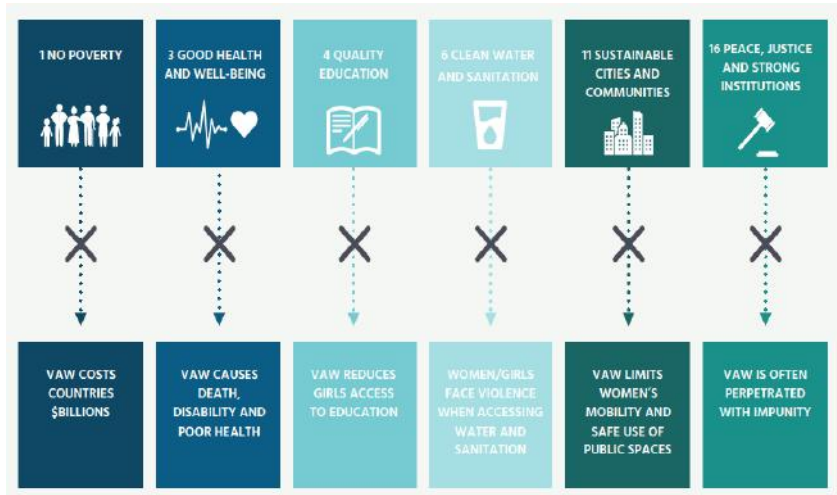
Source: Partners for Prevention Phase II

Comprehensive Sexuality Education

- Integrating content on **gender and rights**, and delivering CSE together with ...access to a full range of high-quality, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services and commodities, makes sexuality education even more effective.
- CSE has a **demonstrated impact** on improving knowledge, self-esteem, changing attitudes, gender and social norms, and building self-efficacy.
- A review of 22 curriculum-based sexuality education programmes found that 80 per cent of programmes that addressed **gender or power relations** were associated with a significant decrease in pregnancy, childbearing or sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- These programmes were **five times as effective** as those programmes that did not address gender or power.

Source: UNESCO (2015). "Emerging evidence, lessons and practice in comprehensive Sexuality Education."
Available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002357/235707e.pdf>

Ending VAW = achieving the SDGs



Source: The Equality Institute 2016

Addressing VAW through the SDGs

Many specific targets address the factors that contribute to VAW



Source: Emma Fulu: Gender Equality Institute "Preventing GBV to achieve the SDGs" 2016

Resources

- <http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/publications/knownvawdata-project-overview>
- <http://www.partners4prevention.org/>
- <http://www.whatworks.co.za/>
- <http://www.unfpa.org/publications/essential-services-package-women-and-girls-subject-violence>

SESSION 1: WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT - EVAW

1. A strong legal and policy framework: Creating a strong legal and policy framework that not only addresses the criminality of violence against women in isolation but one that also recognizes that it is the empowerment of women and girls which is the underlying platform we need to establish, strengthen and continue to build upon. How have we done this in Fiji?

- Constitution on non-discrimination, human rights and economic rights for all Fijians irrespective of gender or ethnicity:
 - (right to education – free education until the end of high school and then a scholarship and tertiary loan scheme that is based on merit rather than on racial or ethnic lines;
 - right to work and a just minimum wage;
 - right to reasonable access to transportation;
 - right to housing and sanitation;
 - right to social security schemes which supports our pension scheme and social welfare benefit schemes;
 - right to health etc.
 - political rights which for the first time in Fiji's history gives everybody equal suffrage and gives each vote equal value irrespective of race

- Domestic Violence Decree – No drop policy – welfare program
 - income generating projects – pension scheme – food vouchers for expectant mothers – allocation of land leases to both husband and wife in state land leases over informal settlements

2. Community buy-in: An inclusive and wholistic approach which recognizes the need for a co-ordinated effort between the Legislature and Executive as policy creators and drivers, NGOs, Civil Society and the community at large as advocates for change. It is vital that the local community must first acknowledge that violence against women is ingrained into the fabric of society, that it is wrong legally and morally and that the community has an important role and duty to play in its elimination. How have we done this in Fiji?

- Zero Tolerance Violence Free Communities – domestic violence helpline – work of NGO, civil society and social institutions like churches and economic institutions like banks for financial inclusion - an inclusive and wholistic approach to awareness ;
- Targeted advocacy – no message or messenger is good for all groups. Use of Male Champions

In working towards this community buy-in, it is important to remember that templates will not work – it is important to remember that a one size fits all approach will not work. It must be acknowledged that a deep understanding of different cultural nuances in different settings in relation to gender is of critical importance before a custom-made approach can be put together.

3. Continuous review and monitoring of programs to identify gaps and challenges which need to be plugged up or methods which may need to be modified to work in any given situation.

How can we engage boys and men in the prevention of violence against women and girls? What has been the result? What are the remaining challenges?

What is important is that when advocating for women's rights or eliminating violence against women, men must ensure that they do not dominate and that they work with women to advocate for women's empowerment and leadership. Men must work alongside women as equal partners. In a patriarchal society like Fiji, this may in itself be quite a challenge particularly in a traditional village setting where a man would normally assume the leadership position in the home, in the extended family unit and in the village as a whole.

- The campaign for ending violence against women needs to be targeted in order to be effective. Targeted groups may include groups as young as primary school boys;
- A huge responsibility also rests with parents as initial caregivers at home. As parents we need to inculcate in our children principles of gender equality, practicing this in the way we distribute household chores for example or in giving our daughters the same level of education as we would a son;
- Male youths are also an important group to target. These youths will become husbands and partners one day.
- In identifying such a target group it is important to identify a strategic campaigner for that group – a person who would command the respect of that particular group eg. A 7s rugby player for youths. For villagers, a religious pastor may be an appropriate campaigner.

- Male Champions – In Fiji, the Hon. Prime Minister himself has become a public voice on the campaign for ending violence against women and girls. He has spoken unequivocally against this form of gender inequality on both national and international forums highlighting the escalating incidence of violence against women and girls and the concomitant effort by Government to eliminate the same. He doesn't stop there. He went on to get our first female speaker appointed to that position. In Fiji, we have our first female speaker, we have a female secretary general to parliament, a female deputy secretary general to parliament, a female leader of opposition and the highest number of female parliamentarians Fiji has ever seen in its history in our Parliament today.
- State based policy initiatives need to be situated in 'specific sites of patriarchy'. In Fiji, our Madam Speaker during her tenure as Minister for Women began an initiative known as Violence-free communities. This entailed the identification of a village or settlement and the capacity building within that settlement through 10 phases over 10-12 months in duration advocating on gender based violence and the law relating to it, financial literacy and inclusion, socio-economic empowerment, stress and anger management, positive parenting etc. This 10-phase program is done by the Ministry of Women in partnership with the Fiji Police Force and NGOs.

A gatekeepers committee is created in such a community comprising of village/community members who command the respect of the

community. These gatekeepers monitor the incidence of violence within these communities and continuously advocate against violence in their communities. Committee members may include, village elders, church leaders, youth leaders, women leaders within that community. Anecdotal evidence suggest that after going through this 10 phase program, the mere fact that communities became aware of our stringent domestic violence laws and male enlightenment in the role of women as agents of change has changed male attitudes and perceptions about the role of women in these communities.




SAARC APEX BODY

**South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children
(SAIEVAC)**

**11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference
on
Ensuring Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment from a Life-
Cycle Approach Leaving No Girls and No Women Behind**

4-5 November 2016| Bangkok, Thailand

1



Challenges and Issues in the Region

- 1.62 billion people - home to nearly one fourth of the world's population
- Nearly 621 million people in the region are younger than 18 years, with 11% (177.1 million) below 5 years of age.
- It is estimated that close to 50% of South Asian children under 5 are unregistered.
- 48% of young women - married before 18;
- Around 44 million (13%) of South Asian children involved in Child Labour;
- Commercial sexual abuse and exploitation of children continues to be one of the most pervasive violations of children’s rights in South Asia;
- 95 % of the world’s total child population are not legally protected from all forms of corporal punishment by parents & 29.3 % live in South Asia;
- 54.7 % of the global child population are not legally protected from corporal punishment in schools & 44.7 % live in South Asia;

2



The Global Call to End Violence Against Children

SAIEVAC- The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children
is
the South Asian response to the global call
by
the UN Secretary General to end Violence Against Children
in
2005.



3



SAARC - APEX BODY STATUS

- Apex Body Application sponsored by the Government of Maldives;
- Application considered and approved during the 34th Session of the Council of Ministers of the 17th SAARC Summit in Maldives in November 2011; and,
- Status valid till 9th November 2016 and is renewable.



4



SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION
CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

This is to certify that the status of a
SAARC Apex Body
has been granted to
South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)
at the Thirty-Fourth Session of the Council of Ministers
The aforesated status will remain valid until 9 November 2016 and is renewable.
Given under my hand on this Eighth Day of December Two Thousand and Eleven.

SAARC Secretariat
Kathmandu, Nepal

Uz. Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed
Secretary General



Guiding Framework

Key Articles of the UNCRC:

- × Right to participation in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. **Article #12**
- × Right to be protected from physical or mental violence or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation- **Art.#19**
- × Right to be protected from economic exploitation-**Art.# 32**
- × Right to be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse-**Art.# 34**
- × Right not to be subjected to torture, cruel treatment or punishment- **Art.#37**
- × Right of a child in conflict with the law to be treated with dignity and respect- **Art.#40**



Guiding Framework

SAARC Instruments -

- × SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia (2002)
- × SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking of Women and children for Prostitution (2005)
- × SAARC Social Charter (2004)
- × SAARC Development Goals (2005)

7



SAIEVAC's Vision

All children, girls and boys,
throughout South Asia enjoy their rights to an
environment free from all forms
of
violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect & discrimination.



8



SAIEVAC's Mission

SAIEVAC aims to prevent and respond to all forms of neglect, abuse, exploitation and violence against children through a comprehensive child protection system at the regional and national level where governments, civil society and children are empowered to share experience, formalize linkages and reinforce cooperation to end violence against children.

9



SAIEVAC's OBJECTIVES

To ensure the realization of children's rights as stated in the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols, and the SAARC Instruments;

To prevent and respond to all forms of neglect, abuse, exploitation and violence against children in all settings;

To promote the adoption, implementation, and monitoring of integrated national strategies with adequate budgets and resource allocation to prevent and protect children from violence and ensure response

To reinforce regional cooperation to end violence against children in South Asia

10



SAIEVAC's 5 Thematic Priorities

1. Child Marriage
2. Child Labour
3. Corporal Punishment
4. Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
5. Trafficking



(Child Participation, Cross-cutting Strategic Approach)

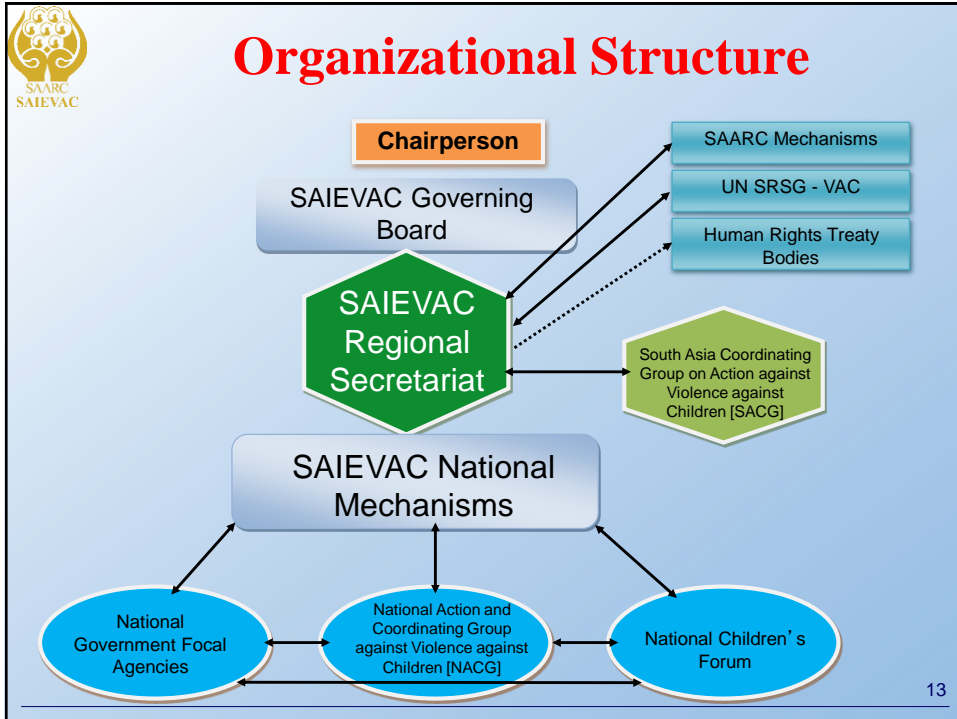
11



strategic OBJECTIVES

1. REINFORCE REGIONAL COOPERATION
2. DEVELOP NATIONAL STRATEGIES
3. DEVELOP AND ENFORCE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES
4. PREVENTION
5. DATA COLLECTION
6. PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND LEARNING
7. CHILD CARE STANDARDS
8. REPORTING
9. REFERRAL MECHANISMS
10. RECOVERY, REHABILITATION and SOCIAL REINTEGRATION
11. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING
12. CHILDRENS PARTICIPATION, AND
13. CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

12



Partnership with other Regional Mechanisms

APPPD (Engaging Parliamentarians Pursuing Development): Advocate with parliamentarians in South Asia to ensure necessary legislation and policies that protect the rights of children are in place.

SACG (South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children): Accelerate the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General Study on Violence against Children in South Asia, along with the regional and national plans and commitments.

SAARCLAW (South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation in Law): Cooperate for tackling the challenges relating to ending violence against children through enabling legal reform.

SAACH (South Asian Association of Child Helplines): Collaborate in sourcing and analyzing data and information from the helplines, create a more robust response system in addressing the issues of violence against children.

Faith Based Organisations (Global Network for Religions/Arigatou International/Dratshang Child Care and Protection Bhutan)

Regional Initiative for a South Asia Human Rights Mechanism: Addressing violence against children as the key human rights agenda for the region.

14



Continued Challenges for SAIEVAC

- Inter-governmental/SAARC & inter-ministerial coordination on Child Protection issues;
- Policy and Legal framework;
- Availability of data and Information;
- Cultural and social norms;
- Economic and social disparity
- Civil and political unrest;
- Natural and manmade disasters;
- Resource

15



RECALL.....

**I am not there that doesn't mean I am not anywhere...
I am not known that doesn't mean I am not existing...
I am not yours that doesn't mean I am of nobody...
I am missing from my home and perhaps from your records
...and yet I claim my rights just because...
...I am a living human being somewhere!**

16



 SAARC SAIEVAC

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION !


SAARC SAIEVAC
SAARC APEX BODY

In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC !

18

ENSURING GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S HEALTH THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFE COURSES

Hon. Mr. Teodoro Jr. Baguilat, MP Philippines, AFPPD Vice Chair

Definition of the life-course approach to health

The life-course approach to health is defined as the long-term effects of physical and social environments during gestation, childhood, adolescence, young adulthood and later adult life on future health or risk of disease.

The life-course approach provides a prototype for policymakers and program implementers to conceptualize how various biological and social factors as experienced at different stages in life, can individually, cumulatively and interactively influence and affect health, life expectancy and possibility of disease in adult life.

The life-course approach takes the health of a person in its entirety and acknowledges that there is a clear and established "domino effect" when it comes to the health outcomes of an individual. It cannot be overemphasized that what happens during gestation has great and lasting consequences on the future health of a person.

Health should be viewed holistically and key stages in a person's life affect overall health

Health is a consolidation, a compendium, and ultimately a fusion of diverse but interlinked factors. Health is indivisible and therefore requires holistic, complete and all-inclusive approaches throughout an individual's life.

A healthy outcome in one point in the life cycle will be a positive determinant in another stage in that person's life.

The life-course approach underscores that crucial stages in people's lives have particular relevance on their health and general wellbeing. This approach is about recognizing the importance of these stages and incorporating preventive measures coupled with medical intervention and pertinent information to ensure people's health during these vital junctures in life.

There is no denying that a healthy start to life will have long-term effects on future health. A baby that is born full-term and is strong and healthy will most likely be able to

fend off the usual childhood diseases and grow up to be a fit, healthy and productive adult.

It is crucial to adopt a life-course approach in ensuring girls' and women's health

There is growing scientific evidence that the foundations of health and the risks that threaten overall health can be traced to the earliest stages of life.

Because they are the ones biologically capable of pregnancy and childbirth, this is more pronounced and well-defined in girls and women.

The life-course approach focuses on girls' and women's health because the health status of a young girl and the environment she grows up in is directly linked to her physical, emotional and mental health when she reaches childbearing age.

Moreover, the state of her health during pregnancy has crucial effects on the health of her offspring. It is therefore vital to ensure that girls are healthy and strong so that their

chances of maturing into healthy mothers giving birth to healthy babies can be ensured. Pregnancy presents a window of opportunity to maximize health gains not only of the mother but also for her baby, which will manifest in later life.

Because of the advent of new information and alternative perspectives, women's health is now increasingly being viewed in its totality and focus is no longer concentrated solely on her childbearing years. This translates to a wide range of preventive care and health interventions that begin before birth, evolves cumulatively and responds appropriately to a woman's health needs throughout all her life course.

Through the life-course approach, other health issues affecting women that were previously overlooked or brushed aside, such as post-partum depression and predisposition to osteoporosis in old age, have become more apparent.

Priority issues in girls' and women's life-courses that need to be addressed

The World Health Organization (WHO) lists four primary and identifiable issues that have to be addressed throughout a woman's life-course:

1. Maternal and newborn health;
2. Child and adolescent health;
3. Sexual and reproductive health; and
4. Healthy ageing.

Maternal and newborn health

Programs on maternal and newborn health should be geared towards one thing: making pregnancy safer. Improving the health and the care of mothers and their babies and preventing common causes of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality can be achieved through basic, effective and low-cost interventions such as mandatory pre-natal care, proper nutrition, vitamin supplements, assisted delivery and essential newborn screening tests.

Women should have access to a wide range of choices

when it comes to maternal services that offer medical assistance and information. These choices should encompass pre-pregnancy, antenatal, childbirth and after birth information and support.

The neo-natal period or the first 28 days of life are crucial. It is during this time that the risk of infant death is at its highest. More than 30% of all deaths in children under the age of five occur during the neo-natal period and 98% of all these deaths happen in developing countries like the Philippines.

The same grim statistics are true when it comes to maternal deaths: 99% of all maternal deaths also occur in developing countries.

These data illustrate how imperative it is to guarantee and promote maternal and newborn health.

Child and adolescent health

Every year, more than 10 million children die before

they can celebrate their fifth birthday. What is even more heartbreaking is the fact that seven in 10 of these deaths are due to preventable and treatable conditions: pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, measles and malnutrition.

Malnutrition and communicable diseases also plague school-age children and can be addressed through breastfeeding and nutrition programs, basic sanitation, proper hygiene and effective immunization programs.

As children progress from the school-age years to adolescence their health needs also change and prevention of peer pressure and dangerous behaviors that can lead to health risks such as smoking, drug and alcohol use, violent behavior and unprotected sex take on a greater importance.

Relevant and timely information presented in a way that young people can appreciate and understand is crucial to educating them about the effects of substance abuse, smoking, risky sexual behavior and unplanned pregnancy. Sexuality education must also be geared towards teaching young people the necessary and indispensable life skills they

need to successfully negotiate and navigate their way through adult life as sexual beings.

Sexual and reproductive health

Couples, especially women who bear the brunt of pregnancy, childbirth and child rearing, should have relevant reproductive health and family planning information and appropriate RH services so they can fully exercise their right to decide when, how often and if they want to become parents.

And should they decide to become parents, it is essential that sexual and reproductive health programs include safe, effective and affordable pregnancy and childbirth services to better ensure the delivery of healthy infants and reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity.

Sexual and reproductive health programs must highlight the importance of reproductive autonomy. This can be achieved by giving women sound information and a full

range of RH and family planning options. Expanding their choices and giving them more alternatives gives them genuine reproductive self-determination.

Healthy ageing

A healthy ageing program must promote the health and welfare of the elderly, which is a fast growing and vulnerable population.

Governments of developing nations can learn a lot from the experiences of the developed world where there is a greying of society and therefore a large population of elderly citizens.

To promote healthy ageing, governments should pursue policies that would facilitate active aging, which include improving the quality of family life, social networks, economic independence and participation of the elderly in the affairs of the community.

Furthermore, to respond adequately to the different and distinctive set of health needs of senior citizens, there

should be integrated standards of care for the chronically ill; pain management and hospice care for those in the end-stages of disease; and suitable response to chronic and irreversible mental health problems confronted by older people.

Future generations will reap the rewards of early investment on the health of girls

Investing on the health of girls will result to a lifetime of economic, social and individual benefits for future generations.

There is no question that, worldwide, the status of girls' and women's health is far from first-rate and falls short of its potential. Apart from its ominous implications on human rights in general, the poor health status of women and girls will also have a negative economic impact on communities and it will have a ripple effect that will have consequences on national development.

There are clear economic benefits in investing on girls' and women's health because good health is key to poverty alleviation and a catalyst of economic growth.

By responding to the varying and various health needs of women throughout their lifecycle; making relevant family planning information and affordable services available to them; and ensuring the health of mothers before, during, and after childbirth, we also guarantee the health and productivity of subsequent generations and this is an indisputable catalyst that will propel a cycle of economic growth and human development.

Last September 25, 2015, UN member countries adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that have specific targets for the next 15 years and are built on the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDGs aim to "end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda." SDG No. 3 is to "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" because it is essential to real and quantifiable human development.

The pioneering spirit that AFPPD is known for should now embrace ensuring the health of girls and women throughout their life-courses.

Michelle Obama has put it quite succinctly. She said that: "Communities and countries and ultimately the world are only as strong as the health of their women."

Main Features of the Constitution of Nepal/ Child marriage

Bhishma Nath Adhikari
Member of leg. Parliament of Nepal

First of all we are so sorry to know the sad demise of His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej in last month. At this sad moment I would like to extend deepest condolences to the people and parliament of Thailand.

I would like to begin by extending the warm greetings to you all from the people and the parliament of Nepal.

Constitution of Nepal, main features:

I feel proud to share with you about the recent promulgation of our new constitution. This marks the conclusion of the peace process initiated in 2006. A new journey towards peace, stability and prosperity has now begun.

This is the first Constitution made and adopted by the Constituent Assembly (CA) which was specifically elected for this purpose. It was passed by constituent Assembly and promulgated last year. It envisions the country towards the federal structure. Now we became federal democratic republic. The new statute has proposed to federate the country into seven federal units.

We are committed to competitive multi-party democratic governance system, civil liberties, fundamental rights, human rights, periodic elections, complete press freedom, independent, impartial and competent judiciary and the concept of rule of law and build a prosperous nation.

The new constitution guarantees substantive equality, and promotes human dignity, identity, and opportunity for all by ending all forms of discrimination and inequalities.

New constitution has guaranteed various civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights guaranteed as fundamental rights: rights to life with dignity, freedom, equality, communication, justice, property,

freedom of religion, information, privacy, language and culture, employment, labor, clean environment, education , health care, food, housing, social justice and social security.

The new constitution has been significantly progressive in eliminating gender-based discrimination as well as empowering women through enhanced representation. It has ensured at least one-third representation of women in the Federal Parliament as well as the State Assembly and at least 40% representation of women at the lowest local level (Ward Committee).

It has provisions for either Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the both Houses to be women. The constitution has similar provisions for President and Vice-President ensuring that the two positions are held by persons of different sex or community.

Nepalese constitution declares ending all forms of discriminations and oppression created by the feudal, autocratic, centralized and unitary system of government in the past.

Constitutional provision of Right of women in Nepal:

- 1) Every woman shall have equal right to lineage without any gender discriminations.
- 2) Every woman shall have the right relating to safe motherhood and reproductive health.
- 3) There shall not be any physical, mental, sexual or psychological or any other kind of violence against women, or any kind of oppression based on religious, social and cultural tradition, and other practices. Such an act shall be punishable by law and the victim shall have the right to be compensation as provided for in law.
- 4) Women shall have the right to access participate in all state structures and bodies on the basis of the principle of proportional inclusion.
- 5) Women shall have the right to special opportunity in the spheres of education, health, employment and social security on the basis of positive discrimination.

6) Both the spouses shall have equal rights in property and family affairs."

Now gender based discriminations has been eliminated totally by the constitution.

We have bi cameral parliament and provision of an independent, competent and unitary nature of judiciary in Nepal.

Now we have three tiers of courts: The Supreme Court; One High Court in each State and one District Court in each district.

We have provision of various constitutional Commissions which will look the different area and issues.

National Women commission

National Human Rights Commission,

National Natural Resources and Fiscal commission

National Dalit,

National Inclusion,

Indigenous Nationalities, etc

We have institutionalized the achievements of the democratic movements held in the country. This is the very new constitution having all kinds of rights based on democratic norms and values with flexibility to amendment. *It declares ending all forms of discriminations and oppression created by the feudal, autocratic, centralized and unitary system of government in the past.*

The question of 'federalization' of Nepal has been a crucial issue.

With this new Constitution, the long cherished task has come to an end.

Now the parliament of Nepal has started to draft new laws according to the constitution.

Now I would like to explain about child marriage in Nepal:

Child Marriage

I am pleased to participate in the discussion on the thematic area: *Ensuring Girls' and Women's Health throughout their Life Courses*.

- **Decision of the marriage is the key decision of a man in his /her life. For the decision making process maturity is very much essential.**
- **Despite being prohibited by domestic and international law Child marriage is happening in Nepal, which is a violation of children's human rights. . It forces them out of education and into a life of poor prospects with increased risk of violence, abuse, ill health or early death.**
- **Globally 14 millions girls marry each year as a children (under the age of 18 years), and many of these under the age of 15.**
- **It is said that over 700 million women alive today were married as children. Almost half of these live in south Asia.**
- **Nepal is the third highest rate of child marriage in south Asia, after Bangladesh and India.**
- **This is happening due to Wide spread Poverty, lack of access to education, problem of Child labor, Social pressures, and harmful practices.**

Nepal and child Marriage:

- Nepal has made important steps over the past few years to promote gender equality, but the country still has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world.
- In Nepal, both girls and boys are at risk of child marriage, although girls are more likely to be married as children. According to UNICEF, 43 percent of girls in village and 27 percent girls at urban area in Nepal marry before age 18 and 10 percent are married by age 15 in spite of the fact that the minimum age of marriage under Nepali law is 20 years of age.
- *Boys also often marry young in Nepal, though in lower numbers than girls. A study in 2012 found that 34 percent of boys marry before age 19 (Save the Children, World Vision International, and Plan International, “Child Marriage in Nepal: Research Report,” 2012.*

International and Regional commitment of Nepal:

Nepal is committed with all international and regional conventions and alliances. Such as;

- Convention of Child rights 1989
- To end the all types of discrimination against women 1979
- Treaty against Torture.
- PoA, ICPD 1994
- Beijing declaration and plate form for action
- Human right council resolution on child early and forced marriage 2013
- Regional action plan to end child marriage in south
- Call for action to end child marriage in South Asia. Etc.

Constitutional arrangements for right of children in Nepal:

- **No child shall be subjected to child marriage, illegal trafficking, kidnapping, or being held hostage. 29(5)**
- Every child shall have the right to education, health care nurturing, appropriate upbringing, sports, recreation and overall personality development from family and the State.
- No child shall be subjected to physical, mental, or any other forms of torture at home, in school, or in any other places or situations.

Nepalese Government Action to End Child Marriage in Nepal:

Nepalese government has passed the strategic directions to end the child marriage through the theory of changes; it includes:

1. Empowerment of the child and Adolescents:

- To make the decision making skills and ability.
- Awareness program for gender equality and rights
- Increase the opportunity to social and economical opportunity.
- To establish the coordination with governmental and nongovernmental organization along with private sector for self reliance.
- To form the units of girls for campaigns against child marriage.

2. Quality education for child and adolescent:

- To assure quality and child friendly education.
- To encourage the children, who are married, unmarried and opportunity less for school education and to provide scholarship, free books, school dress along with additional facilities.

- To provide equal opportunity for schooling, child club, sport, and extracurricular activity.
- To provide information for occupation and entrepreneurship.
- To arrange teacher training for child friendly environment at school.
- To manage the meaningful representation of female on management committee of the school.
- To aware about harmful traditional practice for the obstacle of the school life.
- To assure the student and lady teacher for secure infrastructure, clean and gender friendly environment.
- To provide psychosocial counseling, who are in high risk for child marriage and gender violence.
- To provide alternative education for the continuation of the official education.
- To include secondary education with comprehensive sexuality education.
- To coordination with local health organization for sexual and reproductive health and service information.

2. Involvement of child, adolescent and male:

- Awareness for child marriage
- To create public opinion against child marriage
- Campaign for marriage after self reliance.
- To develop the responsible community against harmful practice.
- To use the religious leader and organization, astrologist and traditional healers against child marriage, gender inequality and Patrician thinking.
- To increase the legal awareness about dowry and gender violence.

4. Movement with family and community:

To mobilize the mother's group adolescent group, women's group and social leaders against child marriage.

- Dialogue with cross generation group.
- To create Local authority without child marriage.
- To make the access for quality education and employment.
- To honor those family who are against child marriage and dowry.

5. Service provide:

- To provide unofficial education for income generation.
- Management of adolescent friendly health services
- To implement effective health, education and legal education.
- To adopt the referral system for quality health service.
- To empower the ability of the child and youth club.
- Establishment of Management of information system in local body
- Improvement of individual registration system along with legal treatment, and public awareness.

6. To strengthen and implement the law and policy:

- Amendment of the law according to constitution.
- Eliminate the legal and social problem.

Other efforts done by government:

7. Girl Summit:

Nepalese government held its own national “Girl Summit” in Kathmandu in March 2016; this goal had shifted to ending child marriage by 2030, to align with the 2030 end date of the global Sustainable Development Goals.

8. Access to education and health services:

The Government of Nepal has taken some important steps to **increase access to education and healthcare, the adolescent girls most at risk of child marriage** often have little or no contact with the educational and health systems.

9. Free Family planning services:

Government health facilities provide free family planning services, (but fail to reach many young people—married and unmarried—who need information and supplies.)

10. Sexual and reproductive health:

Schools are supposed to teach a module about sexual and reproductive health, (but this information fails to reach many of the children most at risk for child marriage— children who are out of school or behind in school.

UN agency and International organization:

- *UNFPA jointly with UNICEF has been actively involved and has provided support to the government and to the community level.*
 - a. Adolescent girls (10-19) targeted programs: life skill, health information, economic empowerment and social protection.
 - b. Roll out of social and financial skill package,
 - c. community level intervention,
 - d. strengthening the quality and coverage of adolescent friendly health service delivery points,
 - e. comprehensive sexuality education strengthening and advocacy.
 - f. Support to countries action plans or development plans.

- *AFPPD, South Asia Parliamentarians' Meeting on Child Marriage was held Kathmandu, Nepal on 22-23 March 2016. Them was "Accelerating our Collective Efforts to End Child Marriage",. This meeting declared*

"Kathmandu declaration" which is very important for us to end the child, early and forced marriage.

Legal Punishment for child marriage:

- The law states that punishment for child marriage is imprisonment for up to three years and a fine of up to 10,000 rupees.

Recommendations for reducing early child marriage:

- *Law enforcement.*
- *Awareness campaign at local level*
- *To prioritize Nepal's achievement of the target on ending child marriage by 2030 under goal 5 on gender equity and empowering all women and girls in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.*
- *To implement all issues related to National strategy to end the child marriage.*
- *Government schools and health workers should work to prevent child marriage, by intervening in specific cases, raising awareness, and equipping children with the information they need to make informed choices about sex and reproduction.*
- *Local government offices should play an active role in raising awareness about the law regarding child marriage and preventing child marriages.*

This shows that we have started very serious and effective efforts to end the child marriage in Nepal. After the promulgation of new constitution, now we have political stability. We think we can overcome from this inhuman tradition and practice within few years. Still we need to have joint efforts to end child marriage, which is a black spot of human civilizations.

I thank you for your kind attention. ■



ENGAGING **RELIGIOUS LEADERS** TO ADVOCATE FOR **WOMEN'S AND GIRL'S ACCESS TO SRH** (2016)

Hj. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah

Vice Chairperson of Commission IX of the Indonesian House of the People's Representatives, Unity Development Party Faction, Chairperson of IFPPD

11TH Women of Parliamentarians Conference, 4 - 5 November, 2016
Bangkok, Thailand

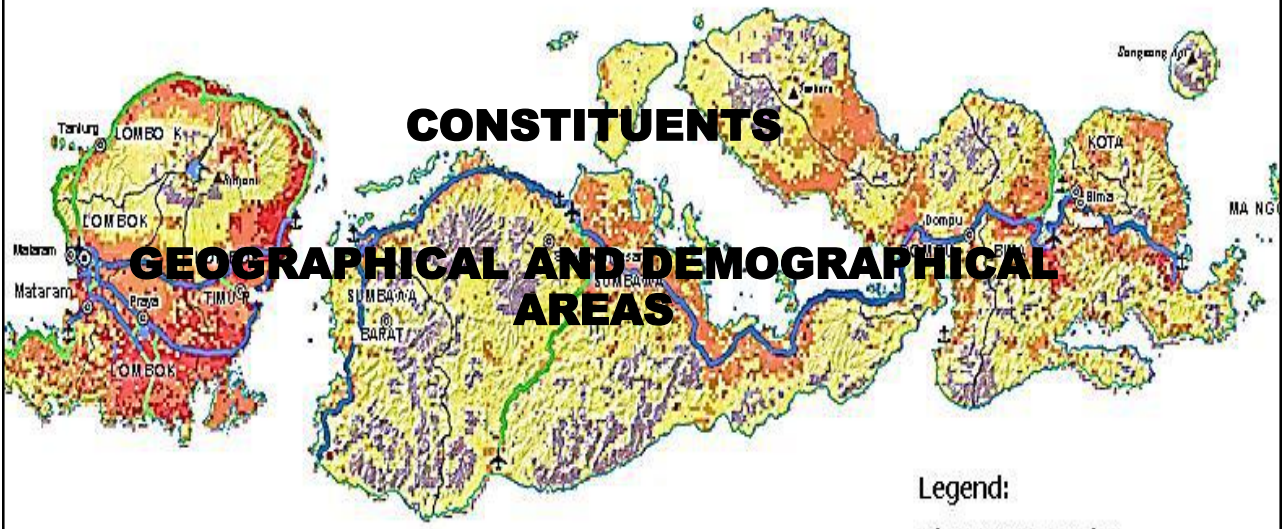


PROVINCE OF WEST NUSA TENGGARA **MAPPING AND PROFILING TARGETED ADVOCACY AUDIENCES**

Hon. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, Chairperson of IFPPD

2

ISLAND OF WEST NUSA TENGGARA



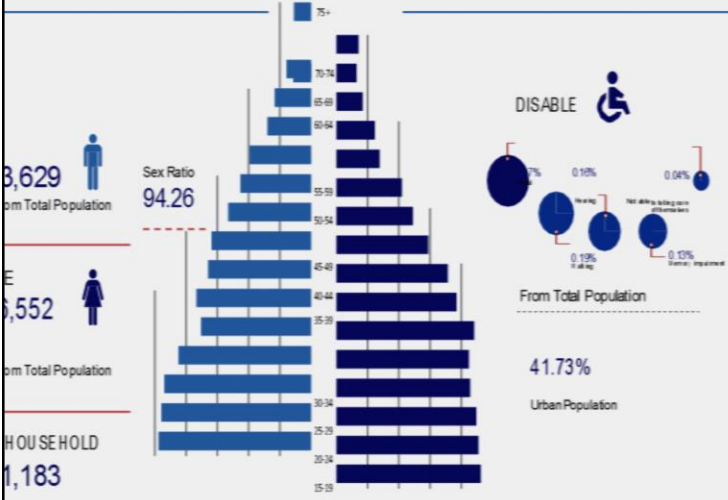
Hon. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, Chairman of IFPPD

Legend:

- Administrative Boundary
- Province
- Province Capital

POPULATION

Source: Census year 2010, BPS



POPULATION PROJECTION

	2015	2020	2025
Total Population	4,835,600	5,125,600	5,375,600
Dependency Ratio (%)	53.80	52.20	50.20
Total Fertility Rate	2.56	2.44	2.31
	65.40	66.50	67.30

BETTER DATA MEANS BETTER POLICIES

Hon. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, Chairman of IFPPD



HEALTH FACILITIES

- **HOSPITALS : 17**
- **PUSKEMAS (COMMUNITIES HEALTH SERVICES): 151**
- **PUSTU (HEALTH ACCESS FOR REMOTE AREAS) : 529**
- **POSYANDU (HEALTH CENTER FOR FAMILY PLANNING AT VILLAGES): 7213**
- **OTHERS: 689**

(SOURCE: INDONESIAN BUREAU STATISTIC)



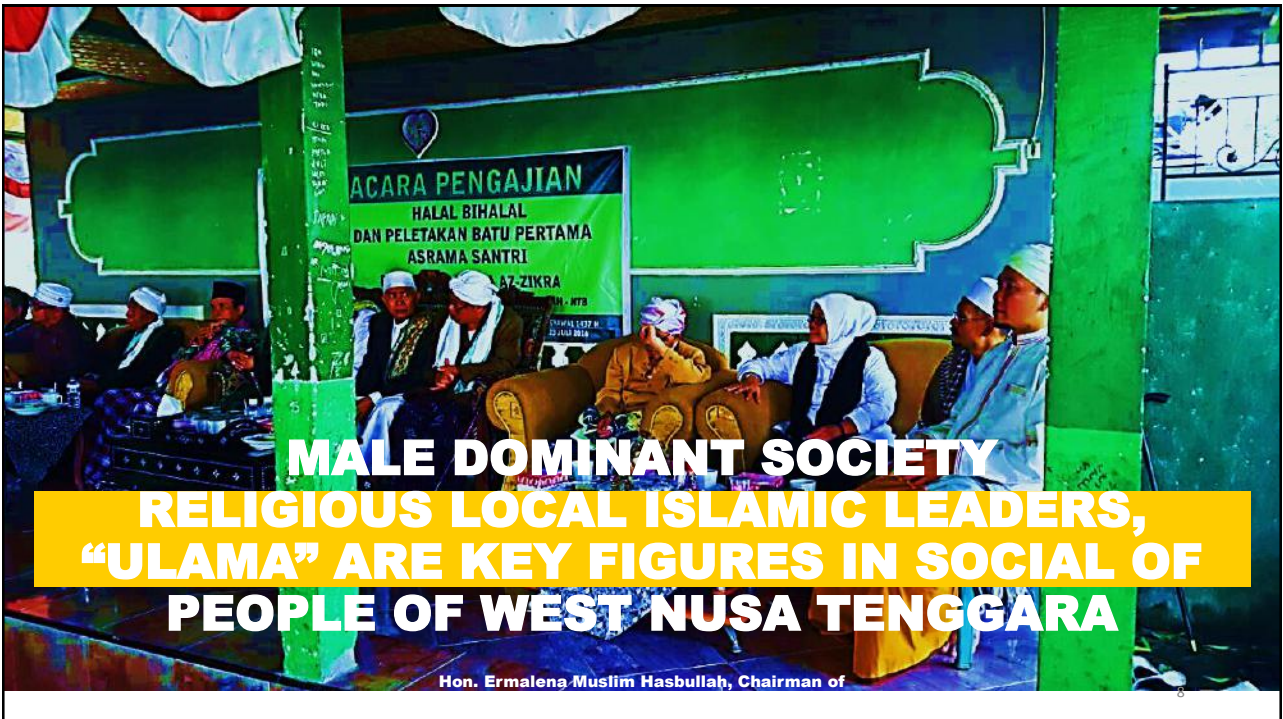
ONE OF MY MAIN ADVOCACY GOALS IS TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND BETTER HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN WEST NUSA TENGGARA

Hon. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, Chairman of IFPPD



**96 % POPULATION
ARE MOSLEM**

Hon. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, Chairman of IFPPD



**MALE DOMINANT SOCIETY
RELIGIOUS LOCAL ISLAMIC LEADERS,
"ULAMA" ARE KEY FIGURES IN SOCIAL OF
PEOPLE OF WEST NUSA TENGGARA**

Hon. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, Chairman of IFPPD



TRADITIONAL AND CULTURAL APPROACHES : ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIP SO TRUST, CREDILITY, ACKNOWLEDGMENT CAN BE EARNED



WHAT IS THE BASIS OF ARGUMENT, REASONS, RATIONALE THAT I HAVE TO INITIATE, ENGAGED DIALOUGE WITH THE RELIGIOUS ISLAMIC LEADERS IN WEST NUSA TENGGARA?

Hon. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah,
Chairman of IFPPD



ISLAM GAVE WOMEN THEIR RIGHTS

1,400 YEARS AGO

*Hon. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah,
Chairman of IFPPD*

11



**14,000 YEARS AGO IN THE DAYS OF
IGNORANCE ISLAM GAVE THEIR WOMEN
RIGHTS :**

**LEGAL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS,
EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS, ECONOMICAL AND
SOCIAL RIGHTS, SPIRITUAL RIGHTS**

Hon. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, Chairman of IFPPD

12



**TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PRACTICES
BEING ADOPTED DAN TRANSFORMED
RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND
PRACTICES**

IT CREATES

**MISUNDERSTANDING AND WRONG
APPLICATION OF REAL RELIGIOUS
PRACTICES**

Hon. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, Chairman of IFPPD



**ALWAYS WILLING TO INITIATE
WAYS OF COMMUNICATING
OURSELVES WITH VARIOUS
CHANNELS, ESPECIALLY YOUTH
ISSUES**

Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, Chairman of IFPPD



Hon. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, Chairman of IFPPD

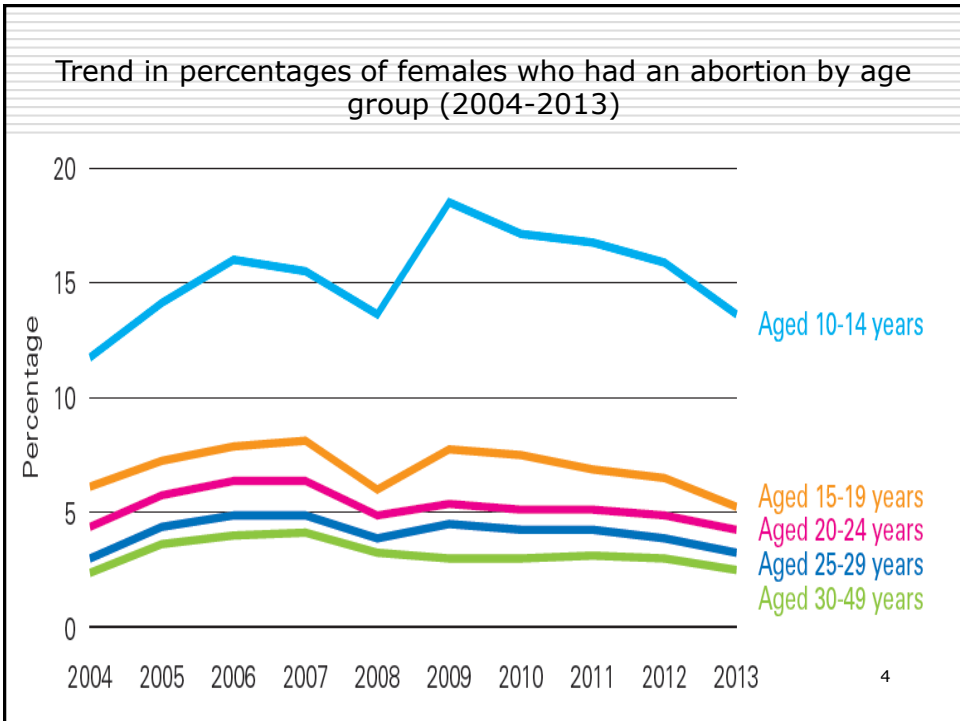
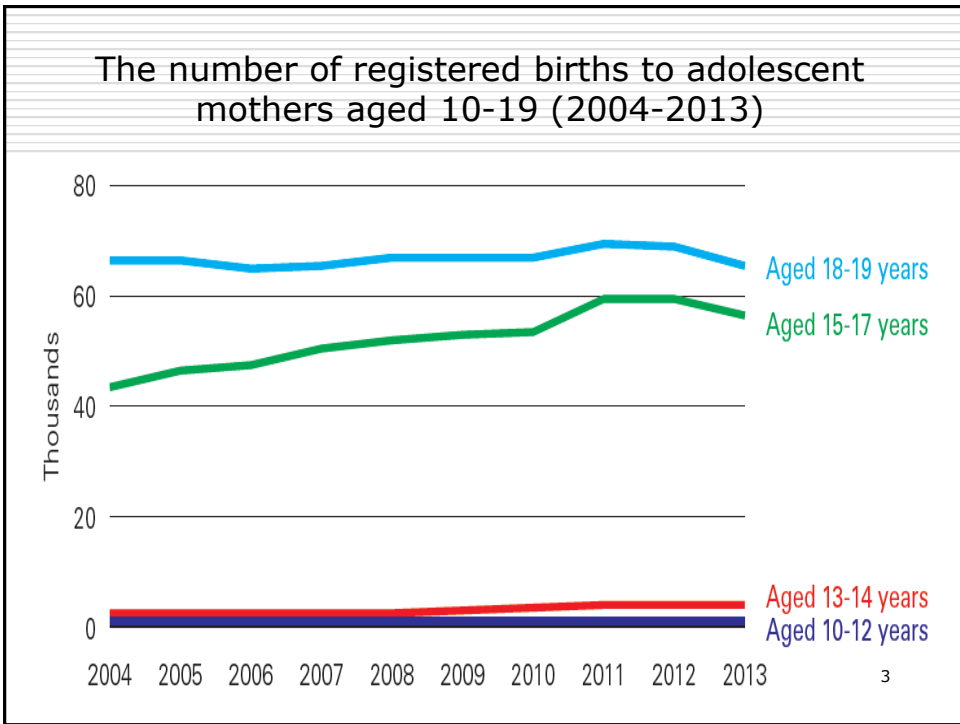
Act for Prevention and Solution of The Adolescent Pregnancy Problem B.E.2559(2016)

Dr. Jetn Sirathranont,
Chairman of the National Legislative Assembly
Standing Committee on Public Health, Thailand
Secretary-General, AFPPD

1

~~Act for Prevention and~~ Solution of The Adolescent Pregnancy Problem: Rationale

2



Key factors contributing to the adolescent pregnancy problem

- ❑ Lack of knowledge and misinformation about reproductive health and contraceptive methods among adolescents
- ❑ Social and cultural stigma
- ❑ Negative attitudes and behaviors of teachers, parents and service providers
- ❑ Insufficiency of confidentiality in medical facilities
- ❑ Inadequate number of trained and/or skilled healthcare professionals and teachers

5

There are Strategy, No Action plan SE not in Comprehensive

- ❑ To achieve the common goal of
 - Ministry of Public Health
 - Ministry of Education
 - Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

6

Act for Prevention and Solution of The Adolescent Pregnancy Problem

- ❑ 4 February 2016, Act for Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy Problem Bill was endorsed
- ❑ 30 March 2016, the final draft was signed by His Majesty the King of Thailand and on 31 March 2016 it was published in the Government Gazette
- ❑ The Act came into force on 29 July 2016

7

Section 3

- ❑ Adolescent means a person over ten years of age but not yet twenty years of age
- ❑ Sexuality studies(educations)means an approach to learning about sex,covering human development at every stage of life, interpersonal relationships,personal skill development,sexual behavior,sexual health and sociocultural dimensions which affect sexuality, including the right to information and knowledge on reproductive health,placing importance on sexual diversity and equality

8

Section 5

- An adolescent has the right to **make a decision by himself** and has the right to **information and knowledge**, right to **reproductive health service**, right to **confidentiality and privacy**, and right to **social welfare provision**, that are **equal and non-discriminative**, and is entitled to any other rights for the purpose of this Act accurately, completely and adequately.
-

9

Section 6

- *An educational establishment* shall undertake the ~~prevention and solution of the~~ adolescent pregnancy problem as follows:
 - (1) to **provide teaching and learning on sexuality studies** which is appropriate to age of pupils or students;
 - (2) to **recruit and develop teaching personnel** to be capable of **providing sexuality studies and counseling** ... to pupils or students;
 - (3) to establish a system of supervision, assistance and protection for pregnant pupils or students to **receive education** in a suitable and continuous manner, including establishing a referral system to ensure the receipt of an appropriate **reproductive health service and social welfare provision**.
-

10

Section 7

- *A service establishment* shall undertake the prevention and solution of the adolescent pregnancy problem as follows:
- (1) to accurately, completely and adequately **provide information and knowledge** on the prevention and solution of adolescent pregnancy problem to adolescent recipients of service;
 - (2) to provide **counseling and reproductive health services** which are up to the standard and consistent with the rights under section 5, to adolescent recipients of service, including establishing a **referral system to ensure the receipt of appropriate social welfare provision.**

11

Section 8

- *A business establishment* shall undertake the prevention and solution of the adolescent pregnancy problem as follows:
- (1) to accurately, completely and adequately **provide information and knowledge** on the prevention and solution of adolescent pregnancy problem to adolescent employees;
 - (2) to **provide or support adolescent employees with an access to counseling and reproductive health services**, including **establishing a referral system to ensure the receipt of appropriate social welfare provision;**

12

Section 9

- There shall be *social welfare provision* relating to prevention and solution of the adolescent pregnancy problem as follows:
 - (1) to promote and support Children and Youth Councils at the level of Changwat and Amphoe to establish the children and youth networks in the areas to be the leaders in preventing, resolving, and monitoring the problem of adolescent pregnancy;
 - (2) to promote and support the relevant State agencies and private organisations to coordinate, monitor, and assist pregnant adolescents and their families;
 - (3) to provide vocational training in accordance with interests and proficiencies to pregnant adolescents, who intend to receive the training, prior and after childbirth, and to coordinate to procure suitable employment;
 - (4) to provide alternative families in the case where adolescents are unable to raise the children themselves;
 - (5) to provide other social welfare to promote the prevention and solution of adolescent pregnancy problem.

13

Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Problem Committee

- Chairperson - Prime Minister
- 8 ex officio members:
 - Minister of Social Development and Human Security
 - Minister of Education
 - Minister of Public Health
 - Permanent Secretary for Interior
 - Permanent Secretary for Justice
 - Permanent Secretary for Labour
 - Permanent Secretary for Culture
 - Permanent Secretary for Bangkok Metropolitan Administration
- 5 experts
- 2 youth representatives from Children and Youth Councils
- Secretary

14

The main roles of the Committee

- ❑ Propose policies and strategies
- ❑ Propose a guideline for amendment to and revision of the law
- ❑ Prescribe an operational guideline for State agencies and private organizations
- ❑ Monitor the progress of Act implementation and report to the Council of Ministers
- ❑ Provide State agencies and private organizations consultation, recommendations, and solution

15

Questions and Answers

16

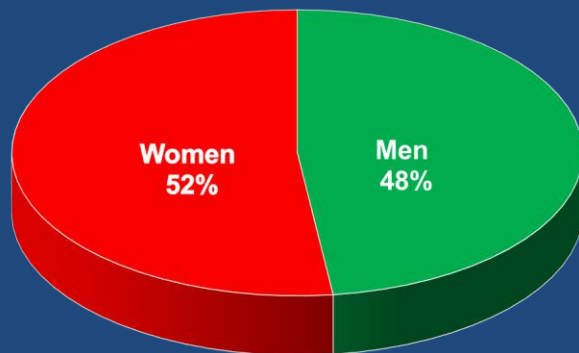
**ASIAN FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION
AND DEVELOPMENT**

**POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN:
THE EXPERIENCE OF KAZAKHSTAN**

11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference

4-5 November 2016, Bangkok

**FEMALE POPULATION
KAZAKHSTAN**



IN KAZAKHSTAN, WOMEN FORM 40% OF GDP

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV



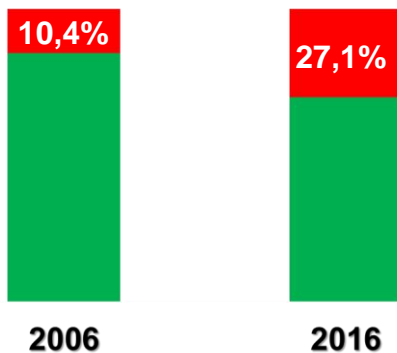
“The whole world recognizes that the representative participation of women in development and decision-making is an indicator of the development of a society. There, where women comprise 30-40% in power structures, the society develops more stably in a socially oriented way“.

25 YEARS OF KAZAKHSTAN’S INDEPENDENCE: ACHIEVEMENTS IN THIS FIELD

- 1. The necessary legal framework that ensures respect for gender equality has been created;
- 2. An institutional framework has been formed to ensure implementation of the state gender policy;
- 3. The network of specialized NGOs is developing dynamically.

GROWTH IN THE SHARE OF WOMEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES

Increasing the number of
women - members of
Parliament



- *The number of female managers in the executive branch increased 2-times in 10 years.*
- *The number of women among the public servants is 55%.*

RATING POSITION OF KAZAKHSTAN IN GENDER POLICY

- In 2016 in terms of "Working women, the proportion in relation to men" of Global Competitiveness Index - **26th place** out of 140 countries
- In 2015 in the global ranking of Gender Equality of the World Economic Forum – **47th place** out of 144 countries

GENDER ASPECTS OF KAZAKHSTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

- 2010 – Chairmanship in OSCE
creation of the post of Special Representative on Gender Issues
- 2011 – Chairmanship in OIC
promotion of gender balance and women's participation in government
- 2011 – Kazakhstan was elected to the UN Executive Board
on gender equality and women's empowerment
- Kazakhstan - non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2017-2018
- Kazakhstan - member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

THERE ARE ALL CONDITIONS IN KAZAKHSTAN FOR SELF-REALIZATION OF WOMEN

1. Constitutional rights of all citizens are strictly provided, any discrimination, including gender, is prohibited.

2. That is the political will of the leader of the country to form a clear coherent gender policy of the state.



«We will continue to create all conditions to increase the role of women in the country.

A modern Kazakhstan woman should aspire to make a career».

**President of Kazakhstan
N. Nazarbayev**

SUGGESTIONS

- 1. hold meetings on specialized panel sessions within the framework of other international parliamentary forums;
- 2. create a network of women's organizations at the international level.

WELCOME TO ASTANA EXPO - 2017!



EXPO 2017
• Future Energy •
Astana Kazakhstan

- Astana EXPO – 2017: "Future Energy"
- International Forum
"Women - Future Energy "
will be held in the framework of
Astana EXPO – 2017

Dear participants!

Dear ladies and gentlemen!

Let me greet all participants and guests of the Conference on behalf of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan and express our gratitude to organizers of the forum for high organization of the forum and warm hospitality.

The theme under discussion today, namely the representation of women at the political Olympus is one of the indicators of a modern democratic society.

The number of female population in the world is about 49,6% of the total population of the planet. In many countries the number of women **exceeds** the number of the male population. This represents a huge potential for the society.

Successful development of the country in many respects depends on the active participation of women in society and their contribution to **the development of economy, culture, science and education.**

In Kazakhstan **women comprise 52% of the total population**, their share among **economically active population constitutes 49%**. **Women form 40% of the country's GDP.**

The President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, stressing the important role of women in society, said: "The whole world recognizes that the representative participation of women in development and decision-making is an indicator of the development of society. Where women comprise 30-40 percent in power structures, the society develops more stably in a socially oriented way."

For **25 years of independence**, our country has achieved significant progress in the field of gender policy.

Firstly, the necessary legal framework has been established to ensure compliance with gender equality and address existing imbalances.

Two gender-oriented laws were adopted, namely, the Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women and the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention. The Strategy of Gender Equality for 2006-2016 was also adopted.

Kazakhstan ratified **12 international documents** and joined to **four UN basic documents** in the sphere of gender equality.

Secondly, an institutional framework has been formed to ensure implementation of the state gender policy.

There is the **National Commission for Women Affairs, Family and Demographic Policy under the President** of the country, which is headed by a woman, **State Secretary of Kazakhstan.**

There are appointed officials in all public bodies who are **responsible for the formulation and implementation of gender policies.** Gender aspects are taken into account in the strategic plans of the ministries and programs of development of territories.

An integrated system of social assistance to women, families with children, and mothers of large families has been formed.

Thirdly, a network of specialized NGOs are dynamically developing. There are about **300 NGOs**, actively engaged with the issues of safeguarding rights and interests of women. The Law "On State Social Order" opens great opportunities for cooperation between state bodies and NGOs.

In the country, there operate the Republican Network of Women's Leadership Schools, Clubs of women politicians. Their main task is political and economic empowerment of women up to the degree of decision-making.

Resource centers on protection of the interests of women and children in the regions have been established.

An agreement with the political parties and public associations, large national companies to support women has been reached.

Recently, the share of the women in **representative and executive branches of the government has been significantly increased.**

Thus, according to the results of the recent parliamentary elections the number of women reached **27.1%**, which is above average in a number of countries of Europe and Asia. And it is almost **3 times as compared with 2006**.

40 % of Ak Zhol party members are women.

Thus, the number of women managers in the executive branch increased **2 times for 10 years**, including **women public officials today reached 55%**.

There has been a positive shift in the **judicial branch of government**. **Among judges of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan 33.3% are women and among the regional judges - 51%**.

All this shows that today women in Kazakhstan are an important pillar of the economy and social sphere, a powerful driving force of entrepreneurship.

In 2016 in terms of "Working women, the proportion in relation to men" of the **Global Competitiveness Index**, we have taken a high 26th place, and in 2015 in the **global ranking of Gender Equality of the World Economic Forum** – 47, thus we have joined the group of countries where women's opportunities in economic, political and other spheres are evaluated very highly.

Kazakhstan takes into account **gender aspects also in conducting its foreign policy**.

Thus, the issues of promoting gender balance and women's participation in government structures were included in the agenda of Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the OSCE in 2010 and OIC - in 2011. The post of **Special Representative on Gender Issues** was created during Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the OSCE.

International recognition of the success of our gender policy was the **election of Kazakhstan to the UN Executive Board on gender equality and women's empowerment (in 2011)**.

Moreover, in the forthcoming membership in the UN Security Council for 2017-2018 years **Kazakhstan also intends to pay attention to the safety and security of women and children**.

Kazakhstan, as a member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms its strong commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women in all areas.

Despite the fact that we do not have gender quotas, these measures have taken effect as all conditions have been created for every citizen and every woman to realize their potential. We still have a lot of work to do.

The first. According to the Constitution of Kazakhstan, all citizens have equal rights and freedoms.

No one shall be subjected to discrimination, including gender one.

The second. That is the political will of the leader of the country enabled to form a clear coherent gender policy of the state. The President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev has emphasized: "**We will continue to create all conditions to increase the role of women in the life of the country. A modern woman of Kazakhstan should aspire to make a career.** "

Today in Kazakhstan the work on a draft Concept of Family and Gender Policy till 2030 has been completed. And the Sustainable Development Goals will be incorporated into the Concept.

Dear colleagues!

As it was mentioned above, we do not have the system of gender quotas.

On the one hand, gender quotas are a sort of tested and popular mechanism to help women enjoy equal opportunities with men in political life.

On the other hand, as practice shows - it is not a panacea, but a tool that works effectively only in combination with other measures, and the presence of a number of necessary conditions for their real, not formal participation in government.

In our opinion, the policy of promoting the idea of gender equality requires, first of all, a clearly thought-out state policy, supported by a well-developed strategic plan to achieve specific goals and objectives. This is the typical for gender policy model of Kazakhstan. It is directed to full-fledged participation of women in political and social life, and in decision-making at all levels of state power. This will promote gender equality, and first of all,

rational use of human resources in the interests of the state and society with account of multiethnic composition of the population in our country, where over 130 nationalities live together.

I am confident, that women must and can prove their competitiveness. Women do not need mercy. They need equal conditions.

It is very important to include **the gender approaches in the national legislation, national and local budgets, state social and economic programmes.**

Dear Colleagues,

In summary, I suggest:

1. Hold meetings on specialized panel sessions within the framework of other international parliamentary forums in order to discuss the political advancement of women. This is of particular importance due to the increased role of women in the context of complex turbulent processes occurring in the world. It will allow to attract more parliamentarians.

2. Create a network of women's organizations at the international level, which would include the leaders of women's national unions. It should unite all resources and focus on the issues of deepening international cooperation in the political promotion of women.

3. Next year a specialized Exhibition "EXPO - 2017" will be held in the capital of our country - Astana. The theme is the use of alternative energy sources and the development of green economy.

The International Forum "Women – Future energy" will be held at the EXPO site. We invite AFPPD and all participants of the conference to take part in this event. It will expand the cooperation between women's organizations in the dissemination of best practices on empowerment for sustainable development.

I am sure that the forum will give a new impetus to the search of new solutions and mobilize our joint efforts to resolve the existing problems in the promotion and implementation of the political rights of women.

THANK YOU!

**11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
November 4-5, 2016**

Madame Chair and Honourable Members of Parliament.

It is indeed a blessing for me to join this distinguished panel to provide insight into the work of the Tongan parliament towards increasing the political participation of women.

I am very proud to be here as Tonga's only woman parliamentarian, elected in this current parliamentary term. At the same time, I have only recently assumed this position since July of this year in a bye-election, so I am still in the process of learning and enjoying it tremendously.

I am only one woman out of a total of my fellow 25 male colleagues. I have also become a member on the Standing Committees for Social Services, Environment and Climate Change and Population and Development.

I am also one woman out of a total of only 8 women parliamentarians ever to be in the history of Tonga's parliament, since it was established in 1875, 6 who were elected and 2 appointed.

Now, I am only one, but I have no doubt in my mind, that there is still a lot of room for more women and I am grateful that this session appropriately addresses how we can increase the participation of women in the political arena.

For Tonga's frameworks, Tonga's Constitution supports the equal participation of both men and women to become Members of Parliament, as in Clauses 64 and 65. Any Tongan subject, 21 years and older, who is not an imbecile or disabled and who has lived in the constituency for 3 months within 6 months of the elections, is eligible to be a parliamentary candidate. The Constitution also provides the numbers and representation in parliament (for 9 noble's representatives and 17 People's Representatives). Tonga also has laws such as the Electoral Act and the Legislative Assembly Act which are to the same effect.

In terms of policy, Tonga's national development plan, the Tonga Strategic Development Framework II includes initiatives to improve gender equality so as to engage both men and women in decision making. Tonga also has a Gender Development Policy, only recently in place in 2016, which explicitly recognizes the unequal participation of women in parliament and initiatives to counter this.

But in observing and in assessing these frameworks, we can see that the political participation of women in Tonga still remains very poor. The question is, are these frameworks enough? Are they practical enough?

To continue, there are many barriers as to why there are not more women in parliament.

Firstly and perhaps the strongest barrier, is that there is a strong mindset against

women being in parliament. Tonga is traditionally a patriarchal society where decision making generally rests with the male as the head of the family. There is a strong expectation that a woman's place is only in the home. Also, because there have historically been only 8 women in the history of Tonga's parliament, there is very scarce experience and exposure of women to parliamentary positions. Society therefore is more accustomed to men as parliamentarians. They are more familiar with male voices in parliament. In addition, there is very little research on Pacific women in politics. Much of the information that we know is general knowledge but it is not researched and documented properly so that it is used as evidence based information.

Secondly, women are not voting for women. In Tonga's latest census in 2011, about 50% of the population was women. When Tonga held its latest General Elections in 2014, a record total of 16 women contested the elections. This in itself was a huge achievement. But the result? No female candidate was successful. At times we often shift the blame to men as the culprits for these barriers but if women voted for women, there would be higher chances of more women MPs. We need to explore why women are not supportive of women candidates.

Thirdly, the political will for women's political participation has generally been unstable – sometimes it is strong, other times it is weak. In 2014, Tonga's parliament at its own initiative supported a Practice Parliament for Women, clearly manifesting strong political will. We have MPs who attend and support gender equality conferences which are perhaps our only way of sensitizing MPs towards this issue. I believe that the political will needs to be stable and iron- fist strong and in unity, to drive this agenda. And this is extremely vital because to amend or change the existing frameworks would require going through some major political hoops. For example, to amend Tonga's Constitution, there is a lengthy and complicated process for amendments which requires passing the amendment bill three times in parliament and a unanimous decision of Cabinet before royal assent.

Lastly, women are not confident to contest the elections. There are major sacrifices involved. Financially, money to pay for campaigning. As candidates, they are now under the scrutiny of the public eye and social media and that can be a brutal experience. Many women don't have the support of their husbands, their families and their communities. They have no access to candidate training, campaigning skills. They have no mentors. Many of their potential mentors are men but perhaps they are not confident to seek help.

But here, we find ourselves today. What can we, as parliamentarians do?

Firstly, we need to drive the strong political will. To do this, we need to support legislation and policies that will lead to the greater political participation of women. And frankly, this means supporting bills for reserved seats for women in parliament, as Samoa has done. After I entered parliament in July this year, I had submitted a motion for two reserved seats for women. This motion was just passed in Parliament just last week. I am currently working on a private bill for reserved seats for women in Parliament. I have also directly spoken with many of the Members to get their views and I am enthusiastic that there will be support. Tonga will have to start somewhere, even if we start small.

Secondly, as parliamentarians, our mandate is to pass the Government's budget. We need to ensure that there is a sufficient budget to support the implementation of legislation and policies in place. In this current budget, \$2.6million is allocated to the Women's Affairs Division out of the Ministry's \$44m. This budget will ensure that the Gender Policy is implemented. But is it enough? Our small governments face financial constraints all the time. However, we as parliamentarians are in a good position to mobilize financial and technical assistance from international donors and parliamentary associations such as AFPPD.

Thirdly, we as men and women parliamentarians, can become mentors and encourage more women to contest the elections as most feel discouraged and not confident. We have a wealth of experience in campaigning, engaging with the public and in understanding the roles and responsibilities of MPs. Let's make the extra effort to spend time with our people and help them to understand the world of our work.

Lastly, we as parliamentarians need to be visible on supporting women in politics, face to face with our constituencies and on social media. If we are to challenge the mindsets that are barriers to women, we ourselves are the best ambassadors to do this. We are in a good position to increase the awareness of the public and the communities on the importance of supporting women in parliament.

To conclude, as a parliamentarian, I am humbled to serve in paving the way for more women and for young girls to sit in this position because I truly believe, there is nothing that is impossible in achieving our vision of women actively engaging as leaders and as parliamentarians.

Akosita H. Lavulavu (MP)
People's Representative - Vava'u 16



Briefing Notes of Ms. Ria Bond, MP New Zealand

Participation on the panel on Women's Political Participation- Session Three.

Initial input should be 5-7 minutes

New Zealand Government Context:

- The Treaty of Waitangi is New Zealand's founding document. The Treaty was signed by more than 500 Maori (New Zealand's indigenous population) and representatives of the British Crown in 1840. Any discussion about political life in New Zealand needs to be mindful of the Treaty's significance to way of life, common laws, customs and legislation.
- New Zealand was the first country to give women the right to vote in 1893. At that time New Zealand was a world leader in women's suffrage which became a central part of New Zealand's image.
- Women have held each of New Zealand's key constitutional positions: Prime Minister, Governor-General, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Attorney-General and Chief Justice. There is generally a political will, from both men and women, to include women in politics and decision making.
- Today, 10 out of 25 New Zealand Ministers are women.
- Women's participation on regional councils (21%), district councils (30%), community boards (37%) and city councils (33%) range from one in five to one in three.¹ Currently 31% of members of parliament are women.

¹ http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/snapshots-of-nz/nz-social-indicators/Home/Trust%20and%20participation%20in%20government/female-rep-parl-local-govt.aspx#info12

Supportive structures for New Zealand women's political participation:

- New Zealand uses a Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) electoral system (which means that the proportion of votes a party gets largely reflect the number of seats it has in parliament and that if a party wins more than half of the seats in Parliament, it can form a majority government by itself). Since introducing the MMP system in 1993 women's participation in parliament has increased from one fifth (in the final first-past-the-post electoral system) to one third today.² Until the 1980s, the representation of women in Parliament rarely exceeded 5%.³
- New Zealand does not have a legislative quota system for women MPs, however two of New Zealand's political parties have voluntary party quotas; 45% and 50%. The leading party in government does not have a party quota.
- The Ministry for Women is the government's principal advisor on achieving better results for women and wider New Zealand.⁴
- Women have outnumbered men in completing tertiary degrees for over a decade and in 2015 52% of doctoral enrolments were by women.⁵
- The New Zealand Government has committed to increasing women's participation to 45 percent on state sector boards and committees.⁶
- The Government's goal is for an increase in women's participation on private boards and leadership, but leaves it up to the private sector to determine an appropriate target.⁶

² <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/research-papers/document/00PLLawRP2015011/final-results-2014-general-election>

³ <http://www.elections.org.nz/events/past-events-0/2011-referendum-voting-system/helping-voters-make-their-choice/representation>

⁴ Key priorities include supporting more girls in education and training, utilising women's skills and growing our economy, encouraging and developing women leaders, and ensuring women and girls are free from violence

⁵ https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/176551/2015-pt-research-final.pdf



NZ Parliamentarians' Group
on Population and Development

The New Zealand All-Party Parliamentary Group

- New Zealand offers paid parental leave of 18 weeks. Women are further able to take up to 52 weeks off work if they have been with the employer for 12 months. This provides some work security for women. At present fathers are entitled to two weeks unpaid leave.
- Early Childhood Education is subsidised for children aged 3-5. This means that the government pays for each child to attend an ECE service for up to 20 hours per week. New Zealand also offers family tax credits if you earn under a certain amount and have dependent children. This supports families to easier afford child care outside of the 3-5 age brackets etc.

⁶ <http://women.govt.nz/leadership/all-about-boards/more-women-boards>

Barriers that need to be addressed and removed in order to increase women's participation in politics?

Women themselves are not a homogeneous group; there are major differences between women based on socio-economic status, ethnicity, cultural background and education. The different groups of women undoubtedly report different types of barriers, many which are not able to be covered here.

Women are currently under-represented in leadership roles in New Zealand with a significant number of highly experienced women leaving the workforce, or unable to get past senior management roles and move into top leadership positions.

Leadership statistics for women:

- 31% of current MPs are women (a record 34% women MPs were elected in 2008).
- The proportion of women elected to local bodies has risen from one-quarter to one-third over the last 25 years, with the number of women candidates also increasing.
- 14.75% of private sector directorships are held by women (2012).⁷
- The participation rate of women on state sector boards and committees is 43.4 percent (2015).⁸
- Women hold 28% of senior management roles (2013).⁹

There are numerous barriers that need to be addressed and removed in order to increase women's participation in politics in New Zealand. It is difficult to do this topic justice in a short presentation, but as a starting point we must recognise that men largely dominate the political arena and largely formulate the rules of the political game. For instance, politics is mainly based on the idea of 'winners and

⁷ <http://women.govt.nz/leadership/all-about-boards/more-women-boards>

⁸ <http://women.govt.nz/documents/2015-gender-stocktake-state-sector-boards-and-committees-2016>

⁹ <http://www.grantthornton.co.nz/Assets/documents/sectors/BA5.pdf>



The New Zealand All-Party Parliamentary Group

losers' and competition. In contrast, women as a group have more often shown to prefer non-hierarchical collaboration, consensus building and inclusion.

Changes need to occur at all levels of society; from improving individual women's confidence to strengthening legislation that support women and entire families.

Some of the barriers that we are facing in New Zealand include:

- Gender pay gap^{10,11}:

More frequently women earn less than men for doing jobs of equal value. There is also an occupational segregation where female dominated occupations tend to be lower paid than those dominated by men.

- While over 40 years have passed since New Zealand made gender-discrimination of pay illegal there is still a 12% pay gap between men and women in New Zealand.
- The value put on women's jobs: the skills and knowledge that women contribute in female-dominated occupations may not be recognised or valued appropriately in comparison to other jobs. This can act as a barrier to women seeking to advance their political-and other sector-careers.¹²
- Women's status in the society influences their ability to stand as candidates (and to be elected) and where their professional

¹⁰ http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/income-and-work/Income/gender-pay-gap.aspx

¹¹ <http://women.govt.nz/work-skills/income/gender-pay-gap>

¹² <https://employment.govt.nz/hours-and-wages/pay/pay-equity/gender-pay-gap/>



The New Zealand All-Party Parliamentary Group

background is less valued than a man's, they are placed in a disadvantaged position.

- Family policies:

Family, care and domestic responsibilities are still not equally shared. The task of looking after dependent family members is largely borne by women in New Zealand. This fact, together with current limited parental leave entitlements and lack of affordable facilities for childcare and elderly care, means that women often have to exit the labour market or work reduced hours which mean it becomes even more difficult for them to compete.

- New Zealand ranks 29 out of the 34 OECD countries when it comes to providing families with *paid parental leave*. Few fathers take parental leave although research shows that leave for fathers can support women's careers.¹³
- High quality, *low cost child care* is essential for women returning to the work force after having children. New Zealand has the second highest rate of child care costs in OECD. We spend almost 30% of our earnings on child care. Current child care arrangements act as a disincentive for women to return to work, especially as many women are stuck in low-paid jobs.
- *Flexible workhours* for parents with young and dependent children would support women to get back into the work force after having children. While some women and families have access to flexible work arrangements, these are negotiated on a case by case basis.

¹³ <http://www.hrmonline.co.nz/news/new-zealand-falling-behind-in-global-paid-parental-leave-schemes-198838.aspx?keyword=parental%20leave>



The New Zealand All-Party Parliamentary Group

What specific actions can political leaders take in increasing women's political participation and how can parliamentarians and their political parties promote active recruitment of women in order to increase women's political representation?

There are numerous ways that political leaders can engage with women and encourage their participation. Some possibilities include:

- Speak to young women in the electorate about political processes and encourage women to take an interest in decision making and leadership roles; not only in the political arena but also in other sectors. Work with women to develop resources that are targeted for them.
- Take part in the youth parliament which is an opportunity for young citizens to learn first-hand about democracy and how to influence decision making. In New Zealand, the youth parliament replicates the real Parliament as close as possible.
- Individual women's confidence and self-belief is key for taking an interest in, and wanting to enter, politics. Individual male and female parliamentarians can act as mentors and coaches for female members of their party.
- Political as well as professional groups such as women lawyers' association can play an important role as a recruiting ground for women candidates.
- Visit organisations with high women-representation and speak about issues that women often take an interest in such as social welfare, national health care, and care of children. Encourage women to take a political interest in these issues and ultimately seek to join the party.



The New Zealand All-Party Parliamentary Group

- In political parties, where women commonly do a considerable amount of the essential party work, it is important to be organised into a women's caucus that can lobby for improved representation.
- Be clear with your party's bureaucratic procedures for selecting candidates as women will benefit where parties have clear rules, rather than a system based on loyalty to those in power. When the rules are clear, it is possible for women to develop strategies to improve representation.
- Advocate for family policies aimed at supporting the dual-earner family and ensuring the same rights and obligations regarding family and work for both women and men. For example;
 - Subsidised child care which makes it easier for women to re-enter the workforce after having children.
 - Extend paid parental leave to be inclusive of both parents and introduce incentives for parental leave earmarked for fathers.
- Engage in research to identify party-friendly positive action measures that support an increase in women memberships. This could mean introducing a voluntary political party quota for women, developing supportive networks and forums for women's engagement or offering training such as leadership development.
- Collaborate with expert civil society organisations that can provide expertise and guidance on key issues relating to women's empowerment and increased political participation.
- Some political parties tend to be more open to nominating women as candidates for local body elections, so women may find it easier to start at this level and use it as a stepping stone to national office. Individual



NZ Parliamentarians' Group
on Population and Development

The New Zealand All-Party Parliamentary Group

parliamentarians should support women to enter where they feel comfortable.

- Parliamentarians can positively engage with key media channels that can provide avenues for women's political participation and support an improved image of women in power. Social media and youth friendly media channels can further support a positive image of women in political leadership roles.



With regard to quotas

New Zealanders have traditionally been opposed to quotas on the basis that they challenge the principle of merit in recruitment, selection and promotion. Quotas appear to cut across one of the nation's most cherished myths, that we are a country where a "fair go" rules, both in aspiration and in practice. Successive administrations have denied any interest in debate about quotas.¹⁴

In 2012 the CEDAW recommended that the New Zealand Government review and reconsider the relevance and usefulness of temporary special measures to accelerate women's progress in the public and private sectors.

¹⁴ <https://www.hrc.co.nz/files/2314/2360/5171/web-census.pdf>



Women's Role and Participation in Politics of Nepal

Mahalaxmi Upadhyay Dina
Co-chair Standing committee AFPPD
Investing in Youth

Women in Nepal

- Gender discrimination
- Patriarchal society that reflected to practice and prevail in the system
- Gender gap and unequal social status
- Unemployment, low paid
- Violence against women and poverty
- Women political figures had difficulty gaining a hearing or respect for their ideas, were tied to 'female issues' and were perceived as not capable in other issues
- Lack of gender friendly Constitution
- Many issues are controversial, single mother cannot pass her citizenship to her child
- Fundamental rights are Discriminatory to women

Contd..

- Less participation in decision making process
- Only 2 women out of 11 are chairpersons in the parliamentary committee
- Only 1 women in the executive body (cabinet minister) alone cannot make the law making process of gender sensitive.
- Poor rules and regulations of parliament execution
- Unhealthy Competition and power relationship



Women's Role Background

- Women in the past contributed to re-established democracy but not acknowledged
- First time women's issue was recognized and made compulsory provision of five percent women's candidature in the election for Parliament (constitution 1991) .
- Lead to consensus commitments with some provision to uplift status of women in the interim Constitution 2007 of Nepal.



Contd...

- 33% women's participation in the Parliament and 40% in the local election is insured in newly promulgated constitution 2015 of Nepal
- Article 70 of the constitution states that president and Vice-President should be from different sex or community:
- Article 84 of the constitution states that at

least one third of the total number of members representing in the Federal Parliament must be women.



contd..

- Regarding the election of the chairperson and vice-chairperson of National Assembly there should be one woman out of the chairperson and the vice-chairperson.
- These provisions also applies on state legislations, village and municipal executives.
- Constitution provision placed two women in

the top position of president and speaker of the country.



Problems in Law enforcement

- Political imbalance and transition
- Inter party power sharing out of gender balance
- External influences
- Budget Allocation
- Party structure and leadership, less representation of women in all parties
- Lack of coordination and cooperation between women parliamentarians
- Gaps between women MPs, civil societies and media
- Politically women parliamentarians are behind to make consensus on the issues of gender

Women parliamentarian activities

- Active participation in the law making process regarding the constitution
- Finding out the gender gaps in the constitution
- Propose to reform and the laws for gender equality
- Higher number of women parliamentarians engage in decision

making level



Interactions

- Desk review of existing plans and policies
- Identify and develop the gaps and challenges
- Joint Meetings and interactions of law makers and key leader of different political parties
- Submit and table draft documents to the related parliamentary committee



Contd..

- Lobbying with the policy makers to reaffirm their commitments to put an end to all of the discrimination against women
- Engaging women MPs to lobby to their parties key leaders
- Engaging civil society NGO's, media and youths to sensitize the issues and create pressure for amendment of discriminatory laws



Expected Outcomes

- Consideration of number of amended laws with gender perspective
- Gender friendly policies put in place at all federal to local structure
- 33% representation in all levels with competition procedures



Contd...

- Increased number of women in decision making level at all levels
- Political parties constitution more women friendly



Implementation Obstacles

- Political fluctuations
- Government alternation
- Parliament interruption/dead luck
- Elections
- Internal conflicts, natural disasters and consequences



Thank You

Work Style Reform in JAPAN

Karen MAKISHIMA(Ph.D)

Member of the House of Representatives of Japan
Liberal Democratic Party Kanagawa17th District

11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference on
Ensuring Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment from a Life-Cycle Approach
Leaving No Girls and No Women Behind
4-5 November 2016 | Bangkok, Thailand

1

「Woman(女性)+ Economics(経済)」 +30% by2020
=「Womenomics(ウーマノミクス)」



安倍首相は女性の積極登用を訴える(1月のダボス会議)＝A P

2

3pillars

The three central pillars of the new strategy are:

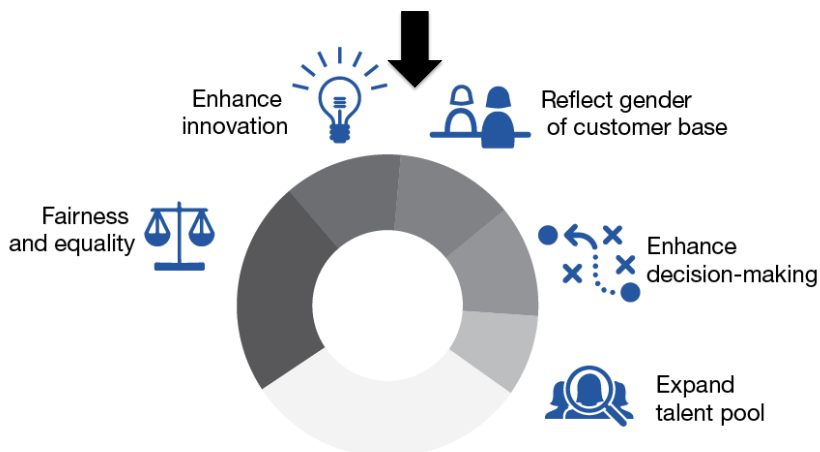
1) Reducing the number of women who quit their jobs due to pregnancy, childbirth, or child-rearing,

2) increasing the ratio of women in leadership positions, 30% by 2020

3) realizing women's full potential and harnessing their many talents.

3

Industries' rationales for hiring and promoting women



Source: Future of Jobs Report, World Economic Forum

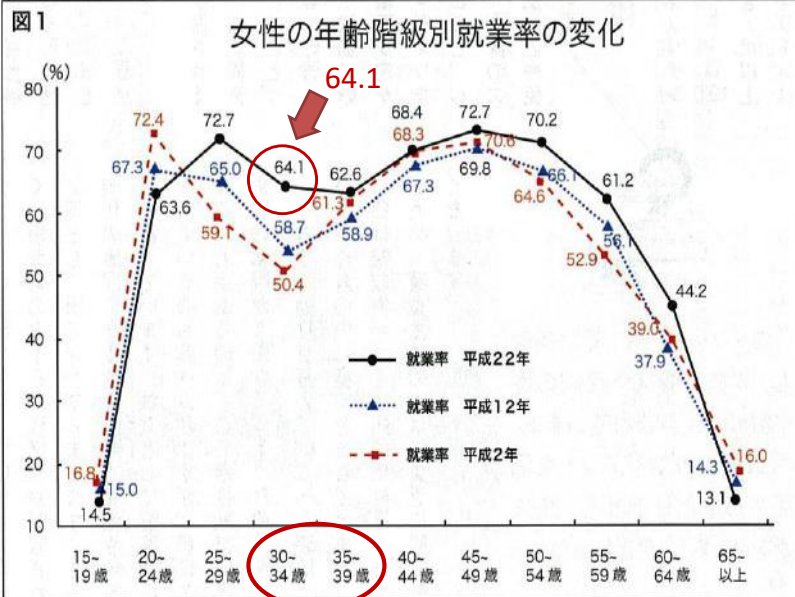
4

Global Gender Gap Index 2016 The highest possible score is 1 (equality) and the lowest possible score is 0 (inequality)

1 Iceland 0.874	31 Portugal 0.737	61 Uganda 0.704	91 Uruguay 0.681
2 Finland 0.845	32 Costa Rica 0.736	62 Albania 0.704	92 Greece 0.68
3 Norway 0.842	33 Argentina 0.735	63 Kenya 0.702	93 Tajikistan 0.679
4 Sweden 0.815	34 Luxembourg 0.734	64 El Salvador 0.702	94 Slovak Republic 0.679
5 Rwanda 0.8	35 Canada 0.731	65 Vietnam 0.7	95 Suriname 0.679
6 Ireland 0.797	36 Cape Verde 0.729	66 Mexico 0.7	96 Paraguay 0.676
7 Philippines 0.786	37 Bahamas 0.729	67 Malawi 0.7	97 Dominican Republic 0.676
8 Slovenia 0.786	38 Poland 0.727	68 Croatia 0.7	98 Belize 0.676
9 New Zealand 0.781	39 Colombia 0.727	69 Ukraine 0.7	99 China 0.676
10 Nicaragua 0.78	40 Ecuador 0.726	70 Chile 0.699	100 Sri Lanka 0.673
11 Switzerland 0.776	41 Bulgaria 0.726	71 Thailand 0.699	101 Hungary 0.669
12 Burundi 0.768	42 Jamaica 0.724	72 Bangladesh 0.698	102 Armenia 0.669
13 Germany 0.766	43 Lao PDR 0.724	73 Macedonia, FYR 0.696	103 Brunei Darussalam 0.669
14 Namibia 0.765	44 Trinidad and Tobago 0.723	74 Venezuela 0.694	104 Gambia, The 0.667
15 South Africa 0.764	45 United States 0.722	75 Russian Federation 0.691	105 Guatemala 0.666
16 Netherlands 0.756	46 Australia 0.721	76 Romania 0.69	106 Malaysia 0.666
17 France 0.755	47 Panama 0.721	77 Czech Republic 0.69	107 Swaziland 0.665
18 Latvia 0.755	48 Serbia 0.72	78 Honduras 0.69	108 Malta 0.664
19 Denmark 0.754	49 Israel 0.719	79 Brazil 0.687	109 Ethiopia 0.662
20 United Kingdom 0.752	50 Italy 0.719	80 Peru 0.687	110 Nepal 0.661
21 Mozambique 0.75	51 Kazakhstan 0.718	81 Kyrgyz Republic 0.687	111 Japan 0.66
22 Estonia 0.747	52 Austria 0.716	82 Senegal 0.685	112 Cambodia 0.658
23 Bolivia 0.746	53 Tanzania 0.716	83 Bosnia and Herzegovina 0.685	113 Mauritius 0.652
24 Belgium 0.745	54 Botswana 0.715	84 Cyprus 0.684	114 Liberia 0.652
25 Lithuania 0.744	55 Singapore 0.712	85 Cameroon 0.684	115 Maldives 0.65
26 Moldova 0.741	56 Zimbabwe 0.71	86 Azerbaijan 0.684	116 Korea, Rep. 0.649
27 Cuba 0.74	57 Lesotho 0.706	87 India 0.683	117 Angola 0.643
28 Barbados 0.739	58 Mongolia 0.705	88 Indonesia 0.682	118 Nigeria 0.643
29 Spain 0.738	59 Ghana 0.705	89 Montenegro 0.681	119 Qatar 0.643
30 Belarus 0.737	60 Madagascar 0.704	90 Georgia 0.681	120 Algeria 0.642

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

M-CURVE



<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/bunya/koyoukintou/josei-jitsujo/dl/10a-2.pdf>

8

Women in Parliaments

Situation as of 1st January 2016

<http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/arc/classif010116.htm>



WORLD CLASSIFICATION

Rank	Country	Lower or single House				Upper House or Senate			
		Elections	Seats*	Women	% W	Elections	Seats*	Women	% W
1	Rwanda	9 2013	80	51	63.8%	9 2011	26	10	38.5%
2	Bolivia	10 2014	130	69	53.1%	10 2014	36	17	47.2%
3	Cuba	2 2013	612	299	48.9%	---	---	---	---
4	Seychelles	9 2011	32	14	43.8%	---	---	---	---
5	Sweden	9 2014	349	152	43.6%	---	---	---	---
6	Senegal	7 2012	150	64	42.7%	---	---	---	---
7	Mexico	6 2015	498	211	42.4%	7 2012	128	43	33.6%
8	South Africa ¹	5 2014	400	168	42.0%	5 2014	54	19	35.2%
9	Ecuador	2 2013	137	57	41.6%	---	---	---	---
10	Finland	4 2015	200	83	41.5%	---	---	---	---
11	Iceland	4 2013	63	26	41.3%	---	---	---	---
"	Namibia	11 2014	104	43	41.3%	12 2015	42	10	23.8%
"	Nicaragua	11 2011	92	38	41.3%	---	---	---	---
14	Spain	12 2015	350	140	40.0%	12 2015	265	104	39.2%
15	Mozambique	10 2014	250	99	39.6%	---	---	---	---
"	Norway	9 2013	169	67	39.6%	---	---	---	---
156	Botswana	10 2014	63	6	9.5%	---	---	---	---
"	Japan	12 2014	475	45	9.5%	7 2013	242	38	15.7%

TO WORK IS FUN!?



Long Working Hours

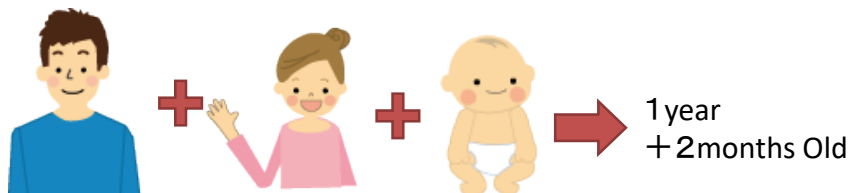
♀ 60+ hours/week 7.5% } 30s ↑
♂ 60+ hours/week 16.9%

Annual Vacation Acquisition 48.1%

Birthrate ↓

11

Parental Leave



 Parental Leave 83%

 Parental Leave 2%

Target →  13% by 2020

12

Housework & Child-rearing by husbands



備考

1. Eurostat "How Europeans Spend Their Time Everyday Life of Women and Men" (2004), Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. "American Time Use Survey" (2014) 及び総務省「社会生活基本調査」(平成23年)より作成。
2. 日本の数値は、「夫婦と子供の世帯」に限定した夫の1日当たりの「家事」、「介護・看護」、「育児」及び「買い物」の合計時間(週全体平均)である。

Target →  2:30 by 2020

13

Industries' barriers to hiring and promoting women

Unconscious bias among managers



Lack of female role models

Lack of work-life balance



Lack of qualified incoming talent



Women's confidence, aspirations

other barriers

Source: Future of Jobs Report, World Economic Forum

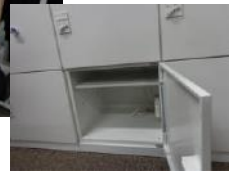
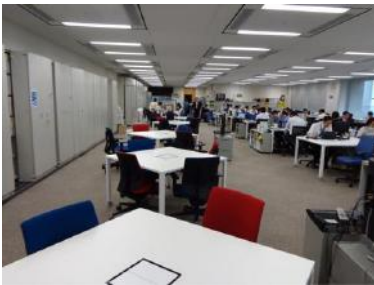
14



**When you lose it, you get something.
Say “Good bye” to paper, desks, and
walls between bosses and you.
“New Work Style” starts here.**

総務省の「オフィスきれいでもちいい。明日を支える行政管理局」制作のポスター、
そのキャッチコピーは...
「なくしたから得られる時間がある
さよなら、紙、机、上司との壁
働き方なんて、変わらないと思ってた。
変えようよ、このオフィスとー」

15



他の階や出先機関とは、チャットやテレビ会議で打ち合わせや、書類の添削も
できます。
一つの画面を皆で見ながら作業することで、一旦プリントアウト、打ち合わせ時
に赤字で直す、持ち帰って打ち直す、再度確認、といった手間が省けます。更
に、顔を上げて意見交換する雰囲気も新たな発想にも繋がっているそうです。
国会対応など夜中までの仕事で現状避けられない霞ヶ関ではありますが、確
実にオフィス改革、意識改革は進んでいます。

16

WORK-LIFE BALANCE



11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference

Positioning Speech on Women's Economic Empowerment

Jane Sloane, Director of Women's Empowerment Program, The Asia Foundation

Honorable members of parliament, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, I also want to express my sincere condolences to the people of Thailand for the loss of your King, who was the people's king in every sense of the word.

It is a great privilege and pleasure to be addressing you today, as an Australian who has lived in Fiji and in Indonesia and now living in San Francisco.

We already know a lot about the barriers to closing the gender gap and the current reality in relation to gender inequality in the region, especially in the workforce. So, for my presentation today I'll give a very short snapshot of some key figures and trends to augment what's already been shared. I want to focus the majority of my presentation on proven interventions that have the potential to be adapted and or scaled across the region and to also share some strategies that are game-changers for women's economic empowerment. And then I want to end with a story that illuminates the enormous potential this gathering has to be a force for change.

Snapshot

We know what's at stake as a result of gender inequality in the region and we know how much the region has to gain by fearlessly and relentlessly working to assure women's economic participation and leadership. At the macro level Asia and the Pacific have the opportunity to increase GDP by over \$50 billion while also reducing the huge social costs caused by women's economic marginalization.

Korn/Ferry International's 2016 survey of 100 listed companies around the region, reported that women still remain under-represented across boards in Asia and the Pacific, with most countries showing little or no progress. The report revealed that women comprise 10.2 per cent of all directors. The report also stated that Asia and the Pacific falls far behind benchmark global economies such as the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union. The only countries showing real progress in gender diversity, are Australia, Malaysia and India and this is due to regulatory action and governmental support for promoting board diversity. In analyzing the implications of this gender-gap the report stated "The lack of women on Asia's boards should sound an alarm bell for leaders...Having the best talent

available and improving diversity across all aspects is the foundation to building a truly high-performing board.” The disparity exists despite the fact that half of Asia’s university graduates are women.

The Global Gender Gap Index 2016 prepared by the World Economic Forum reveals that the gender gap in relation to labor force participation and estimated earned income has increased in some countries and that progress has been negligible in most countries. In South Asia, for instance, the report said it could take over 1,000 years to close the economic gender gap fully unless efforts are accelerated.

The report also highlighted the growing gender disparity in relation to online access and engagement – where for instance in South Asia, women are 38 percent less likely to own a mobile phone than men. As the data suggests, women are at risk of being left behind in the online world. If we are to see gender equality in our lifetime then we must pay attention to issues of ICT access, usage, design and influence by women and girls.

So, given this situation, what are we to do?

Strategies and Solutions

In terms of the workplace, it’s important that we focus on strategies that are designed to change attitudes and behaviors as much as change policies and laws so that we can achieve the level of transformative change required. This means focusing on effective male leadership as much as creating formal opportunities to support women’s leadership within organizations. The fact that the majority of leaders in the workforce are men means that their efforts and example will be crucial to dramatically changing the workplace.

The organization, Catalyst, a nonprofit membership organization that works globally with businesses to build inclusive workplaces, undertook some important research a few years ago on what strategies make a difference in terms of engaging men as advocates for gender equality in the workforce. Catalyst determined that some of the most effective strategies included appealing to men’s sense of fairness, providing men with women mentors, exposing men to male leaders who champion inclusion, and inviting men into the discussion through male-only and male/female groups. The research showed that when men engage in such ways they gained significant personal benefits such as better health, freedom to be themselves, and the ability to share financial responsibilities with a spouse or partner when working in a place free of gender bias.

As the research shows, men are a great and necessary resource in advancing leadership opportunities for women in the workplace. From business success to professional growth, everyone benefits when men engage as partners in creating a gender-inclusive workplace.

In terms of women's broader economic empowerment, I want to share eight path breaking strategies to increase women's economic participation and empowerment based on work undertaken by The Asia Foundation, and from my own work and research in other roles:

1. **Strengthening women entrepreneurship skills and opportunities in order to facilitate women's ability to grow their businesses** This includes promoting policies and programs that provide an enabling environment for women's business associations to support women entrepreneurs. Also important here is peer to peer learning through exposure tours that bring together women entrepreneurs from across the region to visit key programs that have potential for adoption in other countries and setting. For instance, although IT is a booming business in South Asia, there is a lack of women working in this field. Those who aspire to start or grow IT businesses have difficulty navigating a range of legal, regulatory, and cultural barriers. The exposure visits that The Asia Foundation has organized have had important results in catalyzing new ventures to support women in IT across the region. It's also powerful to have Parliamentarians leading such tours due to your influence and the exposure to best practice models.

Also important is supporting NGOs to test new strategies and sustain work that has proven outcomes. For instance, the creation of women's business centers to respond to a demand from women entrepreneurs to receive day-to-day high-quality business support. The Asia Foundation is currently piloting such an initiative in Mongolia as one that includes an accelerated business incubator that will provide new women entrepreneurs with access to office facilities, mentoring, business advice, training and networking.

Creating district women's forums to expand loan opportunities for women entrepreneurs by commercial banks is also an important strategy here. In Bangladesh, the Foundation worked with the International Finance Corporation to do exactly this. By interacting with the Bangladesh Central Bank and several commercial district-level banks, the forums were able to increase the amount of collateral-free loans made to women entrepreneurs through women's SME desks set up inside banks.

It's also important to develop market access programs for new entrepreneurs to gain the access they need. In Myanmar's evolving business environment, The Asia Foundation supports a social enterprise called Yangon Bakehouse to provide vocational training for very disadvantaged women so they can successfully enter the burgeoning market for pastry chefs and cooks and establish their own businesses.

2. **Facilitating public-private dialogues.** It's important for Parliamentarians to be active in facilitating these opportunities for dialogue focused on effective interventions to support women in business. For instance, The Asia Foundation has facilitated dialogues in Bangladesh that brought together representatives from four major banks, women's associations, and women entrepreneurs and business owners to identify policy recommendations in key areas including how to achieve women-friendly banking environments nationwide. Raising the visibility of women as important actors in the private sector and facilitating their participation in high level forums at local and national levels is vital so their voices and views can be heard. This might include establishing an online Asian Women Speakers Bureau to ensure the perspectives of women entrepreneurs and workers are heard in key spaces. There are also examples of banking institutions like Westpac sponsoring and sustaining a women in business network in Australia and the Pacific.
3. **Leveraging women's engagement with technology** Supporting women's use of technology including supporting online forums that connect aspiring entrepreneurs; developing business-to-business web portals which provide regional market access for women entrepreneurs and conducting webinars that build the capacity of women entrepreneurs to advocate for addressing such issues as transport infrastructure and cross-border trade to support market access for women. Creating enabling laws and policies that support mobile banking platforms that are women-friendly and accessible is also vital. For instance, The Asia Foundation is working with VBSP, Vietnam's largest microfinance provider, to increase and improve access to a full range of financial services for low-income households, especially women-led microenterprises that lack access to traditional banking services. The Foundation and its partners are aiming for a minimum of 70 percent of VBSP beneficiaries to be women. In Bangladesh. The Asia Foundation, in collaboration with the country's second largest telecom operator, Banglalink, launched a

mobile phone network that capitalizes on the country's 100 million phone subscribers to help women entrepreneurs in rural districts overcome common barriers. The initiative connects women entrepreneurs to a business hotline, business directory, and e-commerce platform to buy and sell products.

4. **Focusing on young women's economic participation.** Having policies and programs that support the engagement of young women in economic life is critical. For instance, in Southern Thailand, The Asia Foundation is implementing the Aflateen program to build financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills among adolescent girls and young women who live in an environment of protracted conflict in the southern border provinces. A second component of the program supports young women entrepreneurs to join an entrepreneurship and income generation program, followed by in-person mentorship over a two-month period. Those participating in the program have increased their income levels by as much as 60%. It's also important to pay attention to pathways that increase opportunity for young women. For instance, in the Pacific, ensuring young women's access to vocational and technical training centers that provide an accessible entry standard and that don't require prior experience is crucial so that we don't lose another generation of young people, especially young women in the workforce.
5. **Supporting women's networks and alliances.** Creating key alliances of women working in both the formal and informal economies is key. For instance, supporting the formation of a regional or global Alliance of Women Artisans and linking this to key global trading places such as the Santa Fe International Folk Art Fair that provides access to buyers and supply chains, or creating a similar kind of initiative in Asia. The economic potential of women artisans across Asia and the Pacific is phenomenal, with the right support. For instance, The Asia Foundation is supporting women weavers in Timor-Leste through dynamic marketing strategies and development of collectives for traditional tapestries.

The Foundation also works with local Timorese partners to support women's collectives to produce a more diverse range of high-quality woven products, with enhanced labeling and packaging to meet and build demand for artisanal products. Through trainings, workshops, and internships, women's collectives are supported increase their access to local and international markets, allowing them to enhance revenue and build savings. The project supports collectives to strengthen their business practices and financial management, as well as providing scholarships for adolescent girls who often face pressure to terminate their schooling early. This

initiative also has a strong mentoring component for adolescent girls and young women as well as providing internships within the collectives. Involvement in networks is also a key way to support women workers' access to higher income roles such as livestock rearing in rural areas and to trade and service roles in urban areas instead of poorly paid casual wage labor.

Beyond women's networks is the importance of building a network of male champions for change in the workforce and wider community – who can lead by example on paternity leave, affordable and accessible childcare and inclusive leadership. And of course to do this we need to engage men as advocates at every level – from village chiefs and elders to corporate chiefs and Presidents.

In relation to women in the informal sector, supporting their ability to organize and form associations that allow them to collectively access new markets and forge collaborations and partnerships to strengthen income is vital. So too is ensuring that laws are passed, implemented and regulated to protect women from violence. In this regard, we must step up our commitment to end all forms of gender based violence in the workforce and anywhere in order to end the world's longest war, one that kills and maims more women and girls each day than any other war or conflict in history.

6. **Ensuring the effective implementation of laws and policies designed to end violence and sexual harassment in the workforce and ending all forms of trafficking.** Brokering a multi-country commitment to a minimum wage would be an important step to curb human trafficking. Recognizing the crucial role that legal empowerment plays in building the capacity of women workers, especially in the informal economies, is vital. Tracking the implementation of laws to protect women from violence and sexual harassment in the workforce is also very important and so having a gender research hub dedicated to this work would make a difference. Here, there is a new partnership opportunity made possible by Melinda Gates' \$80 million pledge to close the gender research to pilot such a research hub and, in this respect, it's a powerful opportunity for governments to work together.
7. **Using procurement policies to preference companies and organizations that have strong representation of women on their boards and in senior positions.** Governments have the

ability to use their procurement policies to preference those companies and organizations that have strong female representation on boards and representation in senior management. This would certainly be a powerful incentive for corporations and organizations to change fast because profits and reputation are at stake. It would require companies and organizations to change in support of gender parity if they were to remain competitive and sustain profits. This would send a powerful message to companies, and also to NGOs – that governments are serious about closing the gender gap on women’s representation and participation at senior levels in the workforce.

8. Supporting the creation of women’s funds on a country, sub-regional and regional basis

Women’s Funds are philanthropic organizations that provide financial support to women-led programs designed to advance women’s human rights and economic justice. These funds raise money to distribute grants to women’s groups within their own country or location in recognition that getting money into the hands of women is one of the best ways to ensure that women and girls can assume greater voice and leadership in decision-making, and thus benefit directly from the solutions. These funds also advocate to ensure gender inclusive approaches to philanthropic giving by other donors and I know that one fund recently attracted \$2 million from a male donor in support of gender equality. There are now over 140 women’s funds globally working to advance women’s and girls’ empowerment. With an international Women’s Funding Network and an organization called Women Moving Millions, women are mobilizing and exercising their power, money and influence in support of women’s rights.

Women’s funds exist in Asia – there’s TEWA, Nepal women’s fund, HER Fund in Hong Kong, South Asia Women’s Fund in Sri Lanka and Victorian Women’s Trust in Australia and there’s the opportunity to create more in support of a strong regional network. The potential to change the current paradigm is immense. Globally women create and influence more than a quarter of the world's wealth - upwards of \$20 trillion. In the U.S. alone, women hold decision-making power over more than \$11 trillion dollars. And that represents a tremendous opportunity to influence the global economy and society. This includes consistently using our purchasing power through apps that would alert us to products created by women owned businesses. I encourage you to attend the international Women’s Funding Network conference in San Francisco in September next year to witness yourself the global power of women’s funds in dramatically increasing women’s economic empowerment.

Investing in the power of women's and men's *collective* action is critical, in order to mobilize women, build their agency, awareness and ability to drive change together to realize our full economic and social transformation.

So I want to end with a story that illustrates what's possible.

Janet Sape is a Papua New Guinea woman who for years had a dream of creating a Microbank for Women in Papua New Guinea. She was articulate about the reasons why. 83% of women in Papua New Guinea are constantly exposed to domestic violence and 50% of them become victims of sexual assault in Papua New Guinea experience some form of domestic violence in a country that has one of the highest rates of violence against women anywhere in the world.

As Janet said when she started this work, "More than 80% of PNG women live in rural areas where there's no access to banking or finance. The vast majority of these women work in the informal sector, as tailors, farmers, fisher-women, where they have no financial security and are very vulnerable. Women can't inherit property and they rely on their husband's signature for security if they're wanting to take out a small loan. That's why I want a microbank for women, to reach the unreachable. We are small people here. We don't have Bill Gates or Oprah Winfrey to champion us. Women have to help each other, especially in an environment where polygamy is increasing and marriages are shaky. If a woman walks out of a marriage, then she's left with nothing. However, if a woman is financially secure she can buy land or a house and own it. She can pay to put food on the table, give her children an education, manage her business and afford health care. Truly, economic independence will be the savior of women in this country."

Janet's proposal to the government was that to be eligible for a loan at this women's bank, women would be required to do compulsory financial literacy training and to have a track record of at least six-months savings. So, I helped Janet to get funding for her organization, PNG Women in Business Foundation, and they started with five women signed up as financial members of this foundation in 2007. However, by 2013, Janet was still having difficulty convincing the government to sign over a banking license to her organization to establish a bank, even though she had a banking background and a strong infrastructure in place. At this time, as a Board member of the international Women's Funding Network, I nominated Janet for the foundation's LEAD Award due to Janet's inspiring vision and tireless

work we funded her to travel to the US from Papua New Guinea with some of her colleagues to speak at our annual international Women's Funding Network conference.

When Janet stood up in front of hundreds of women to accept the award she said: "You know. We women who have travelled far across the seas to be here tonight. We thought we were alone. We thought that our troubles were our own. Now I see we have all of you women – and men – by our side as a movement in solidarity and I can't tell you what a difference that makes. Thank you for your belief in us.

We beamed the footage of Janet accepting the award back to television stations and newspapers in Papua New Guinea and so, by the time Janet arrived home, she was a rock star, on the nightly news and in newspapers.

Several weeks later the Papua New Guinea Bank signed over the banking license with 10,000 women signing on as members. Now, three years later, there are over 20,000 members of their Pacific Women's Bank. It is the first women's micro bank in the Pacific and the fourth in the world.

The bank now also supports women with small loans and savings plans for health and education needs as well as for women wanting to start their own business. Some women are using their newly found economic independence to also consider nominating for Parliament. And Janet Sape told me she is standing for political office in the elections in PNG next June, "and I will win," she said confidently in an email to me last night.

With more women in parliament in Papua New Guinea, there will be more opportunities for women to be at the table, and to influence policies and laws, including those to advance women's and girls' human rights.

That's what happens when you provide enabling policies and laws that get funds into the hands of women and provide them access to influential forums where they can speak for themselves and have their advocacy amplified. This is the power of this network of parliamentary women and allies here today to step into our collective and transformative power. Let's agree on the actions we can take today and let's right history. Thank you.

Session 4: Women Economic participation

H.E. Mrs. Lork Kheng

AFPPD treasurer, and Member of Parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia

First of all, on behalf of the Cambodian parliament, I would like to express my sincere condolences to the people of Thailand on the loss of a great King Bhumvibol Adulyadej.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to brief you on how women have encountered within these 36 years. After the collapse of the Pol Pot regime, Cambodia left a majority of single mothers and children. Women had to strive hard to feed their families, yet their important role was not credited. Also, cultural and social norms have restricted women's potential; women were viewed as caregivers in the family; they were supposed to stay home and do all the housework or could run a micro-business only within their compound or a place nearby. This concept has compelled women to have less access to education, especially those in rural areas. With this scenario, they cannot find decent jobs and are often isolated from the outside world.

According to the data from the National Institute of Statistics, the majority of women's businesses are informal, micro-enterprises: 51 percent of them engage only one person, while 96 percent engage four or fewer people. Women's businesses are concentrated in a smaller number of industrial sectors than men's. They are wholesale and retail trade and services, accommodation and food, manufacturing and other services, accounting for 97 percent of all businesses.

The Government and the Parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia recognizes that greater participation by women in the economy will accelerate the achievement of the national goals, namely sustainable and inclusive economic development with a fair share for women. Sustainable economic opportunities will reduce vulnerabilities of women, such as human trafficking, illegal cross-border migration or even domestic violence as a result of increased incomes and ownership of assets. If incomes increase, women will be able to invest in the development of their livelihoods and contribute to sustainable community development.

There is a number of rules and policies in place to ensure gender equality. That comprises of national and sub-national mechanism. Cambodia has received a remarkable achievement to involve women in economic development. According to our constitution, men and women shall have equal rights before the law. They shall enjoy the same benefit with the same job. It is further stated that housework is equal to paid work. Aside from this, the inter-ministries proclamation on the registration of the property and the civil code of Cambodia are indicated on the right to ownership which women shall be entitled to, even though they are not the breadwinner. Also, the land policy stated that in order to eligible to register the ownership, it is mandatory to have both husband and wife to sign on the paper.

According to National Institute of Statistic, despite the increases in women's labour force participation rates, from 76 percent to 80 percent between 2008 and 2012 for the age group 15-64 years, gender inequalities in paid work remain, and the gender gap has increased in terms of vulnerable employment. This indicates fewer productive employment and decent work opportunities for Cambodian women.

The main barriers to women's participation and benefit from wage work include: (i) low levels of participation in vocational training, education and literacy; (ii) a low minimum wage; and (iii) discrimination in employment practices such as multiple short-term contracts.

What Parliamentarians can do is to take their oversight role and fulfill their promise with the voters and bring all the effective means to overcome the challenges. From my own experience:

First, we have to work closely with the local authorities to review the progress and try to figure out the remaining challenges. Commune officers are the key persons to support parliamentarians in collecting information on women's issue in this regards.

Second, try to observe the general perspective of the household toward women. Getting to know the perspective and behavior of men and young boys toward gender equality and the role of women in the family and how they can contribute tremendously to the economic growth.

Not different from other countries in Asia, cultural and social norm are still a big challenge for us. We need to change people mindset through advocacy where we engage men and women to come and exchange their thoughts on how they could help each other to grow. We also advocate women to entrust women through engaging them in decision-making process. As recalled by our colleague from Tonga, women do not vote for women because the voters have no confident in women candidate.

To overcome this, we have to advocate parents on the importance of education for women's life as parents prefer to live with their daughters than sons at their old age. Parliamentarians have to convince parents to allow their children to attend school at least 9 years as stated in the law. Also, we keep them up-to-date on the information of vocational training.

Meanwhile, the government keeps increasing the scholarship for poor students especially for women. We also engage the private sector and CSOs to provide more grants to poor household.

Due to the shorten information on the vocational training, we urge the government to provide more variety of skill training and make them accessible to all. This could help to build more capacity for women in finding a decent job, that is how women could realize financial independent and they can equally compete at the labour market.

We must also provide environmental friendly for small and medium enterprise that absorb more employment for women, especially the enterprise that own by women. In this regards, we engage successful women entrepreneurs to be the role model who could inspire other women to try harder to integrate themselves into male dominant society. *When we help women to unlock her potential, they could become a stronger figure than men.

Last but not least, we continue our partnership with the line ministries, CSOs, and private sector in forming effective strategy and mechanism and continue our advocacy work on how to address emerging issues and promote women's role in the society. Parliamentarians are the key person to ensure the success of the implementation, it is their job to make citizen's voice louder especially the voice of women.

Thank you very much for allowing me to share my experiences and thanks to AFPPD and other organizers for setting up this event.

Su-Mei Thompson
 CEO, The Women's Foundation

11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference
 Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)

November 4-5, 2016

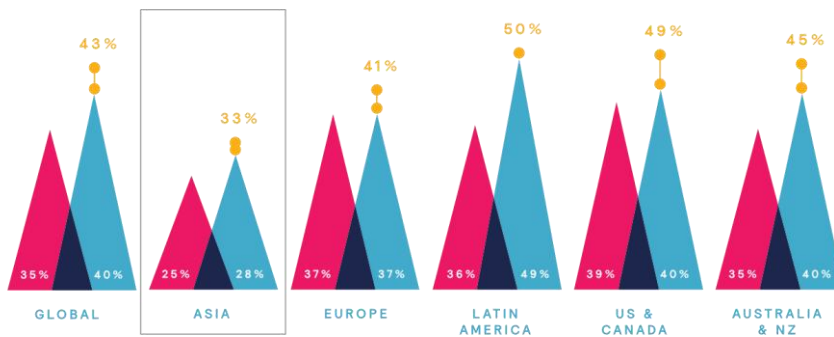
MERCER REPORT – WHEN WOMEN THRIVE, BUSINESSES THRIVE

ASIA is projected to have the lowest representation of Professional & Executive women by 2025 – **only 28% at the professional level and above**, given current hiring, promotion and retention rates



% FEMALE IN PROFESSIONAL & ABOVE LEVELS, 2015-2025

▲ CURRENT 2015 REPRESENTATION ▲ PROJECTED 2025 REPRESENTATION "BASELINE" ● ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY



WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM: THE FUTURE OF JOBS

5 million jobs will be lost before 2020 as AI, robotics, nanotechnology & other socio-economic factors replace the need for human workers

This translates into a widening of the employment gender gap with **women losing 5 jobs for every job gained** compared with men losing 3 jobs for every job gained, due to the **low participation by women** in growth areas like computing, adding to the urgency with which leaders must address the chronic problem of getting more women into **STEM**



Executive Summary

The Industry Gender Gap

Women and Work in the Fourth Industrial Revolution

January 2016



STATUS OF WOMEN & GIRLS IN HONG KONG

WOMEN IN HONG KONG MAKE UP 54% OF UNIVERSITY GRADUATES BUT...


80% OF WORKERS EARNING LESS THAN 5,000HKD PER MONTH ARE FEMALE


WOMEN IN HONG KONG EARN 20% LESS THAN THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS


84% OF SINGLE MOTHERS LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE


39% OF HONG KONG LISTED COMPANIES HAVE NO WOMEN ON THEIR BOARDS


30.7% OF WOMEN WHO LEAVE THE WORKFORCE DO SO TO CARE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS


ELDERLY WOMEN EARN 32% LESS PER MONTH THAN ELDERLY MEN

TWF MAIN GOALS



OUR MAIN GOALS :

Challenging Gender Stereotypes | Advancing Women Leaders | Empowering Women In Poverty

Advancing Women Leaders



The Women's Foundation

TWF is a leading NGO for women's & gender issues

The Women's Foundation was established in 2004 and is a leading non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls in Hong Kong through ground-breaking research, impactful and innovative community programmes, education, media engagement and advocacy

TWF PROGRAMME IMPACT

<p>7,000 TEENS, PARENTS & TEACHERS HAVE BENEFITED FROM OUR GRASSROOT PROGRAMMES</p> <p>T.E.E.N. + LIFE SKILLS</p>	<p>100+ WOMEN'S NETWORKS HAVE ACCESSED OUR BEST PRACTICE RESOURCES DEVELOPED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MCKINSEY</p>	<p>OVER 100 WOMEN TO WATCH HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OUR PIPELINE INITIATIVES</p>
<p>A DOZEN GRASSROOTS NGOS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OUR TRAIN THE TRAINER CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS</p>	<p>300 WOMEN IN POVERTY AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE BENEFITED FROM OUR FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMME</p>	<p>DEVELOPED 600+ WOMEN LEADERS THROUGH OUR HIGHLY ACCLAIMED MENTORING PROGRAMME</p>
<p>JOINED FORCES WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES TO COLLABORATE ON WORKING TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO WOMEN AND GIRLS' ADVANCEMENT</p> <p>ON 25+ OCCASIONS VIA CONFERENCES, HEARINGS, FORUMS, SUBMISSIONS AND SYMPOSIUMS</p>	<p>60 CHAIRMEN MEMBERS STIMULATING DEMAND FOR WOMEN ON BOARDS AND PROMOTING THE SUPPLY OF BOARD-READY WOMEN IN HONG KONG</p>	<p>100+ EVENTS</p> <p>ROUND TABLES PANELS WORKSHOPS TALKS</p>

The Women's Foundation

TWF GIRLS GO TECH PROGRAMME FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL GIRLS

WHAT: A free after school programme that provides secondary school girls from underprivileged backgrounds with coding and digital literacy skills to maximise their future career opportunities

WHY: To create positive attitude shifts and increased confidence around technology

HOW: By providing girls with foundational skills in coding and technology and encouragement & support to actualise those skills



The Women's Foundation

7

TWF STUDY ON GIRLS & STEM

Our Pilot Research & Programme Findings: Getting girls to embrace STEM is about **early experiences, confidence & encouragement**



Early experiences matter: it's never too early to start

Early positive experiences and familiarity with STEM and computing make a huge difference to girls' interest and confidence in their abilities



Girls tend to doubt their ability when it comes to STEM

- Girls are constrained by stereotypes that boys are better at and more suited to STEM fields and careers
- Girls at girls-only schools have less entrenched stereotypes about STEM



Girls are strongly influenced by their families, teachers and peers

The encouragement of parents, teachers and friends makes a huge difference to girls' attitude towards pursuing STEM subjects & careers

The Women's Foundation

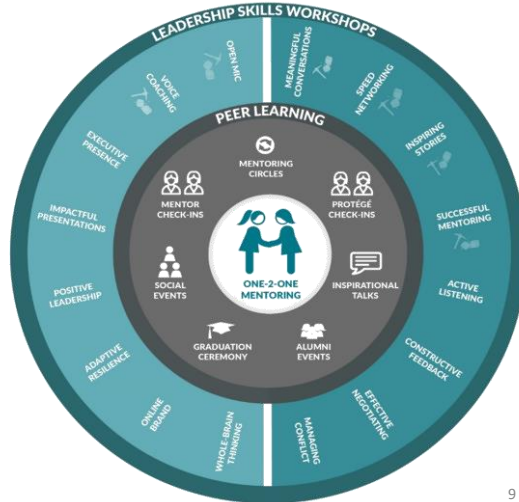
8

TWF MENTORING PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN LEADERS

Now in its 8th year, TWF's best-in-class Mentoring Programme for Women Leaders is Hong Kong's pre-eminent cross-industry mentoring programme for professional women

TWF Mentoring Programme

- Each year, TWF pairs over 50 high-potential young female professionals with 50 successful female leaders across different sectors and organisations
- Participants benefit from a highly structured programme including one on one mentoring, peer learning, personal development & professional skills workshops and opportunities to put in practice their newly honed leadership & presentation skills



The Women's Foundation

9

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

TWF's 2013 study on "Women's Economic Empowerment Through Entrepreneurship in Hong Kong" explores **why women owned business start small and stay small**.

Despite HK's established legal system, favourable tax environment and low start up costs, women owned businesses face particular gender related challenges:



- Most lenders don't apply a **gender lens** in their lending activities
- Lack of **technological savvy** means women entrepreneurs aren't leveraging the Internet to scale their businesses
- Women often lack the same educational advantages and **work experience** as men
- Many women feel they aren't taken seriously by potential employees & professional advisors and they don't have access to mentors and sponsors
- Women find it hard to **balance** family commitments with running a business

The Women's Foundation

10

HEFORSHE: 30% CLUB HK AND TWF MALE ALLIES

- The 30% Club HK is a group of male chairmen & business leaders committed to bringing more women onto boards
- TWF's Male Allies are a cohort of around 30 influential, senior executive male leaders who have committed to influencing changes at their own organisations and personal actions to advance gender equality in Hong Kong

“The standard you walk past is the standard you accept.”



The Women's Foundation

11



WEF GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT 2016

Female talent remains “one of the most underutilised business resources, either squandered through lack of progression or untapped from the outset”

- Gender equality now won't be achieved until the year **2186**. The same report in 2014 estimated parity by **2095** meaning that in just two years, the forecast for global gender parity has been pushed back 91 years and is now **170 years** away!
- Progress towards parity in the key economic pillar has slowed dramatically with the gap – which stands at **59%** – now larger than at any point since 2008.

“These forecasts are not foregone conclusions. Instead, they reflect the current state of progress and serve as a call to action to policy-makers and other stakeholders to double down on efforts to accelerate gender equality.”

The Women's Foundation

12

Ensuring the rights of the vulnerable in the context of migration and climate change

Presentation at the
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and
Development

11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference
Bangkok, 4-5 November 2016

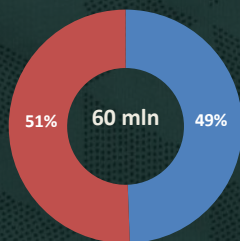
Paul Tacon

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for
Asia and the Pacific

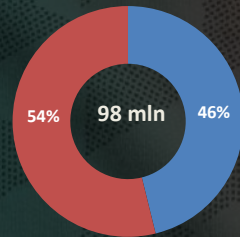


International migration in Asia and the Pacific involves women and men

Migrants to Asia and Pacific Countries, 2015



Migrants from Asia and Pacific Countries, 2015



■ women
■ men

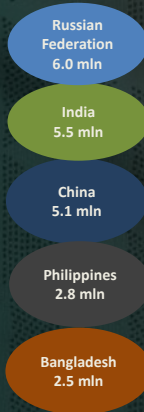
Source: UN Population Division, 2015



The main trend in female migration is intra-regional...

- Asia-Asia is the largest migration corridor in the world
 - 49 per cent of female migrants from Asia-Pacific countries remain in other Asia-Pacific states (UN DESA, 2015)
- Highest ratio of women vs men migrants:
 - East and North-East Asia;
 - North and Central Asia,

Main Countries of Origin in the Region



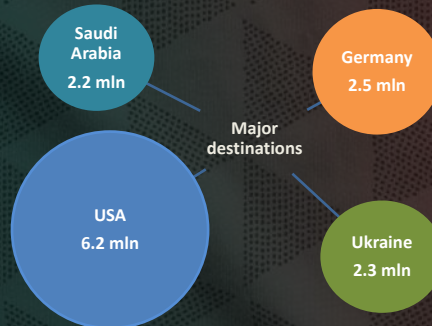
Main Countries of Destination in the Region



Source: UN Population Division, 2015

But migration outside the region is important

- Majority of migrants to North America and Europe are women
- Migration to developed countries is notably influenced by demand in health and care sectors of ageing nations
- Gulf states and Saudi Arabia, in particular, predominantly attract female domestic workers (UNESCAP, 2013)

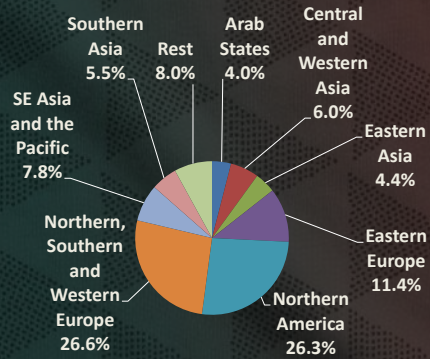


Source: UN Population Division, 2015

Most female migrants are migrant workers

- Female labour is mostly concentrated in temporary, low-skilled “women-preferred” sectors, such as domestic work, hospitality, garment manufacturing, entertainment
 - South-Eastern Asia and the Pacific hosts the largest proportion (24 per cent) of the world’s female migrant domestic workers
- Some skilled workers are recruited in education, health and social work, mainly in the global North
 - Nearly 40% of women from Asia-Pacific region residing in OECD have tertiary/higher education (OECD, 2010-2011)

Regional Distribution of Female Migrant Workers, 2013 (ILO, 2015)



Migration can be empowering for women...



... But unfortunately women face specific risks with relation to migration

Before Migration

- Financing migration is more difficult for women than men
- Restrictions on female migrant workers in some countries of origin and destination force women to pay bribes and large broker setting fees

During Migration

- Lack of legal and social protection leads to greater vulnerability and unequal treatment
- Substandard working and living conditions, social isolation, low wages, illegal withholding of wages, sexual and physical abuses are common
- Wives of migrant men are forced to take on greater accountabilities in the family, including tasks traditionally performed by males

On Return to Country of Origin

- Financial and social independence acquired abroad might diminish under the domestic pressure to return to traditional gender norms and division of labour
- Risk of non-acceptance and violence on suspicion of misconduct while abroad

Much female migration is irregular

- There are over 50 million irregular migrants worldwide (IOM, 2016)
- Women are at a higher risk of irregular migration, including smuggling, due to:
 - Regulatory restrictions on legal migration
 - Greater female-specific migration controls (e.g. age bans)
 - Patriarchal/gender norms disapproving of women's free movement
 - Demand for female labour typically being in jobs with lower levels of protection, such as domestic work
 - Lower levels of qualification and skills, which place women in precarious jobs outside the formal sector



Migrant domestic workers are particularly vulnerable

- 12.7% (8.5mln) of all female migrant workers perform domestic work (ILO, 2015).
 - There are around 3 million female migrant domestic workers in the Asia-Pacific region
- Labour laws and protection mechanisms in many countries do not apply to domestic workers, resulting in:
 - Lack of legal provision for leave, rest, sickness days and health care
 - Limited protection against exploitation and abuse by employers
- In the Arab region, *Kafala* system prevents domestic workers from changing employers, making women particularly dependent on sponsors
- Social costs are high as family reunification is not possible for female domestic workers, meaning children are left without mother's care
- 2013 ILO Domestic Workers Convention extended fundamental labour rights to domestic workers and established protection mechanisms for migrant women

Women also make up important components of refugee flows

- Asia-Pacific region is home to over 40% of the world's refugees and persons in refugee-like situations, half of which are women, including pregnant women, unaccompanied minors, disabled and elderly
- Highest concentration of refugees (women and men) is in Turkey (2.5 mln), Pakistan (1.6 mln) and Islamic Republic of Iran (1 mln). (UNHCR, 2016)
- Main countries of origin are Syria (4.9 mln) and Afghanistan (2.7 mln) (UNHCR, 2016)

Female refugees have specific needs

- In transit and destination countries women face threat of physical and psychological trauma, health complications (especially pregnant women), risk of abuse and gender-based violence
- Female refugees have particular needs for culturally-appropriate protection, security and dignity including:
 - Women only facilities, including secure sex-segregated toilets and showers
 - Health care items and gynaecological services
 - Mother/child-friendly multi-purpose spaces
 - Dedicated shelter for vulnerable groups, including pregnant, elderly, disabled and unaccompanied women and minors
 - Psychological counselling for victims of violence and sexual abuse

Migration in the context of climate change will be important

- Environmental variabilities will increasingly influence migration, through their impact on social, economic and political conditions
 - Environmentally-driven migration in Asia-Pacific is mostly intra-regional
- Voluntary migration can become a climate change adaptation strategy enabling:
 - ✓ easing of population pressure in environmentally-challenged areas
 - ✓ income diversification
 - ✓ reduction of environmental displacement risk
 - ✓ building of long-term resilience
- Vulnerable groups and women face a greater threat of being “trapped” in the affected areas:
 - Regulatory, financial and social conditions constraint female migration
 - Following migration, given lesser access to resources for re-building homes and communities
- **SDG 13.b** promotes mechanisms for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing states, including focusing on women and marginalized communities



A number of initiatives are underway to address gaps

New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants	Promoting improved international governance and management of migration and refugee movements, and addressing the needs of the vulnerable groups
Global Forum on Migration and Development	Addressing opportunities and challenges of migration issues based on a gender-sensitive and human rights-centered approach, through dialogue and cooperation among UN Members, Observers and select observer organizations
UN Human Rights Framework	Provides universal international principles for protection of human rights of all people, equally applying to migrants. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families provides the standards for domestic policies with a focus on vulnerabilities of female migrants and their households
Eurasian Economic Union	Enables labour mobility, mutual recognition of education qualifications, access to social protection systems (excluding pensions) and right to join trade unions in member states
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution	Preventing the trafficking and exploitation of women and children, and promotion of safe and responsible management of labour migration
ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Migrant Workers	Promoting potential and dignity of the migrant workers in a climate of freedom, equity and stability and in accordance with the laws
Abu-Dhabi Dialogue	Promotion of a framework for the fair and efficient management of temporary contractual labour mobility in Asia
Colombo Process	Protection and provision of services to labour migrants, particularly domestic, trafficked and sex workers, and enhanced development benefits of migration
The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime	Preventing the people smuggling and trafficking, assistance to victims, particularly women and children, and encouraging formal migration

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development addresses female migrants

GOAL	TARGET	INDICATOR
Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women and those in precarious employment	8.8.1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status 8.8.2 Increase in national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status
Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries	10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people , including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies	10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination 10.7.2 Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies

Countries have responded to challenges facing female migrants

- The Philippines has adopted laws and procedures to regularise the recruitment process of Filipinos migrating overseas, enable protection of workers' human rights abroad, provide legal/social support, assist the migrants in distress and facilitate skills development programme for unskilled workers.
- Republic of Korea Employment Permit System (EPS) allows recruitment of foreign workforce from countries who have signed MOU's with the country, aiming to formalise the hiring process, regulate recruitment fees, ensure minimum wages, and provide transparent mechanisms to addressing labour grievances.
- Countries of origin have signed bilateral domestic worker agreements with Saudi Arabia to regulate the migration process, resolve labour disputes, control recruitment costs and secure human rights of incoming domestic workers.

Concluding Remarks

- Migration is a growing phenomenon, presenting significant socio-economic challenges and opportunities for female migrants and households
- Initiatives are underway at different levels to address the protection gaps faced by migrants, and female migrants in particular
- Engagement in these initiatives could benefit from being guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UN Conventions
- Ensuring migration of all with dignity and protection of rights will benefit all

Thank you!



SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION



Issues of women migration in the Kyrgyz Republic

Osmonbek Artykbaev

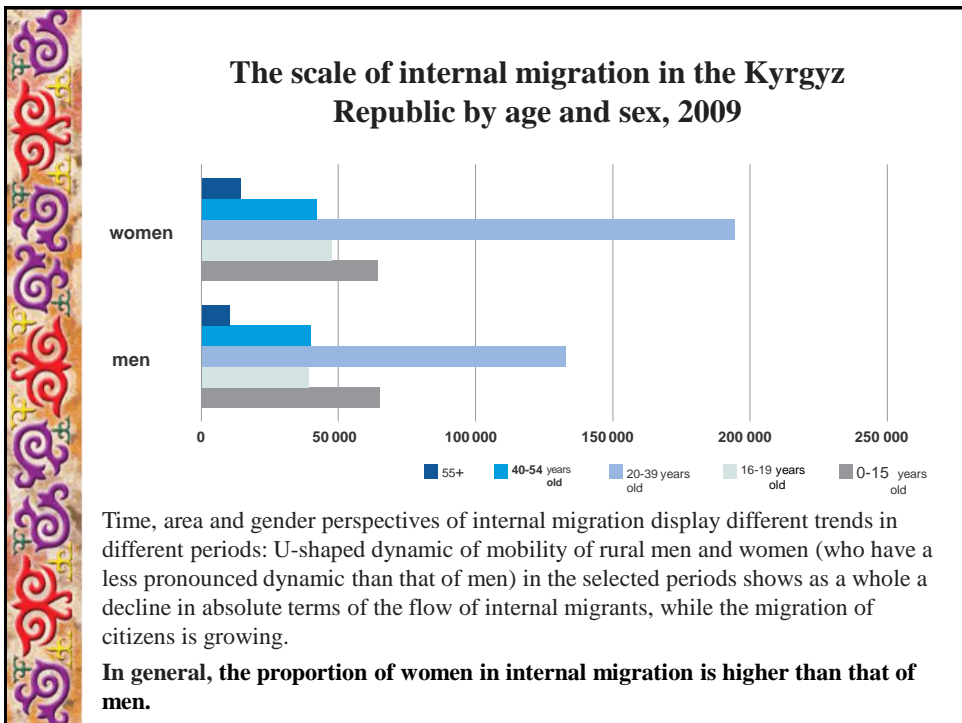
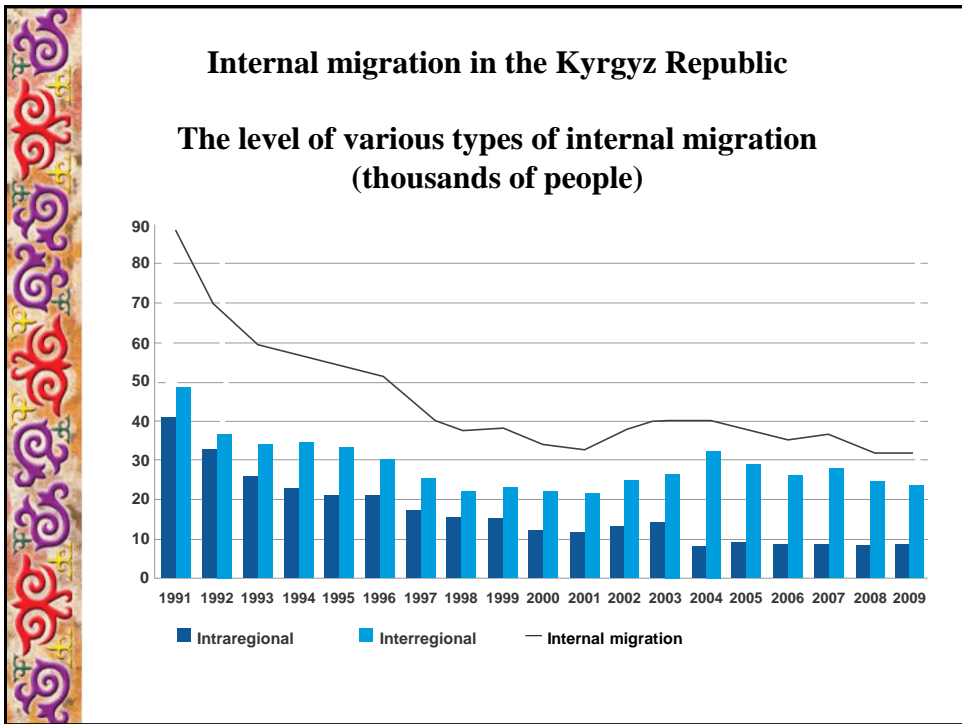
Chairman of the National Committee of the Kyrgyz
Parliamentarians on Population and Development

The Kyrgyz Republic



The population of Kyrgyzstan has reached **6019,5** million people
by 1st January 2016, of whom.:

- 2920,894 are men
- 3038.586 are women



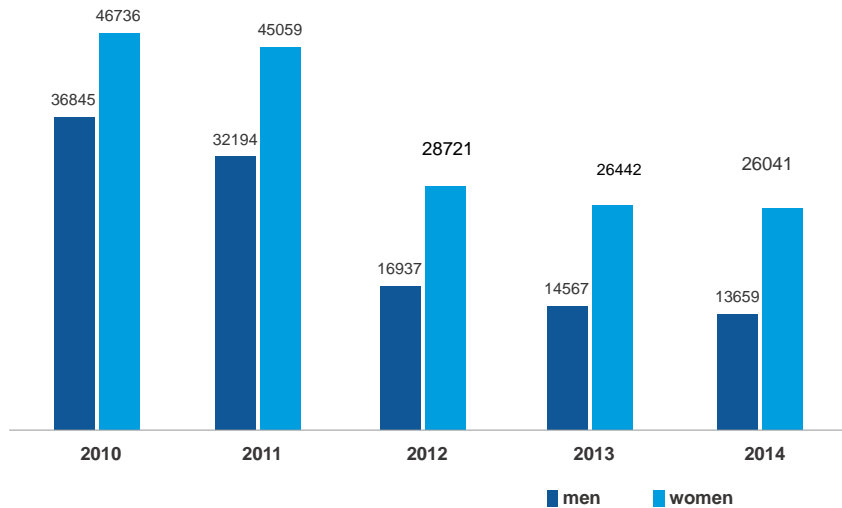
Causes of internal migration:

- high inequality in the regional development
- the outflow from the highlands towards the plains and relatively flat territory
- from south to north
- from rural to urban areas (depopulation of some rural regions, and ethnic depopulation in the border area)
- from resource-poor areas with limited labor markets to richer regions

Migration abroad

Since its independence, more than 600 thousand people moved from Kyrgyzstan to far abroad or to the CIS countries for permanent residence (every fifth from the working-age population)

The number of emigrated Kyrgyz citizens (people)

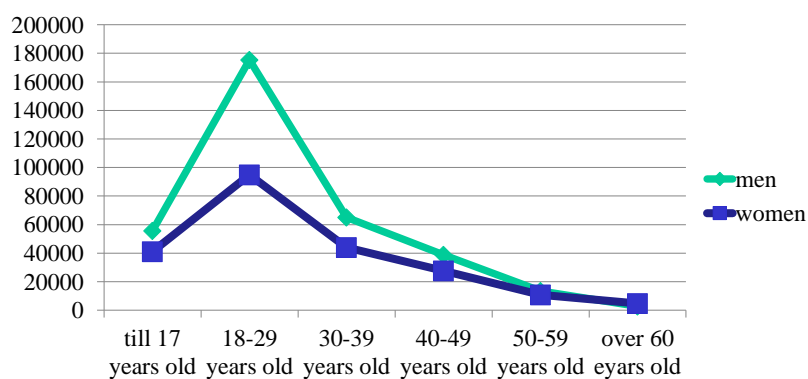


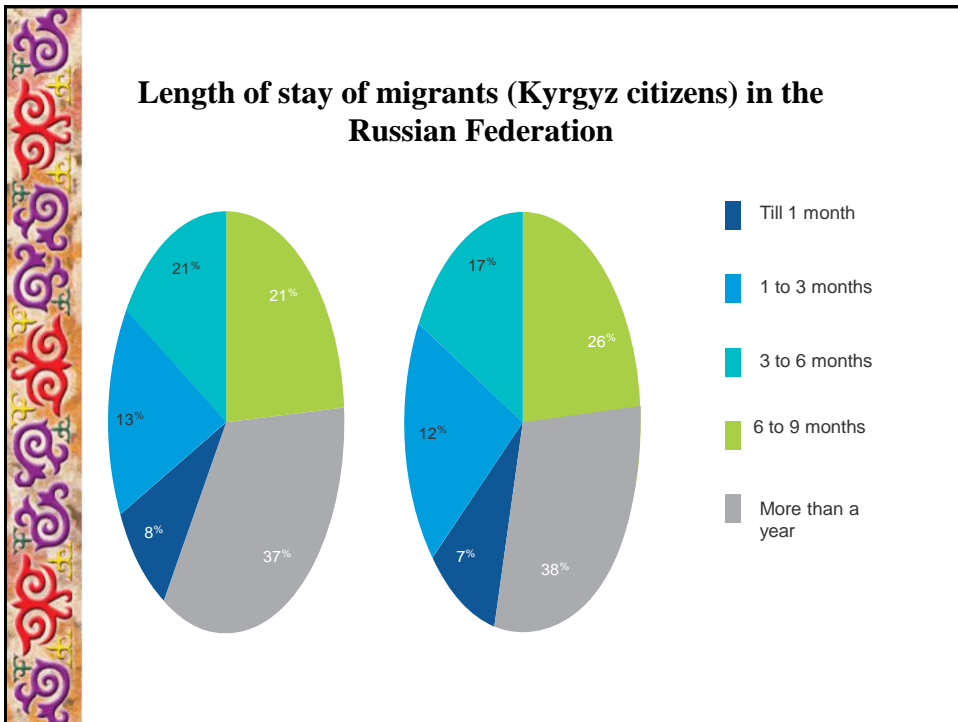
The migration of women from Kyrgyzstan abroad

The migration of women abroad occurs mainly from regions with high rates of poverty. The largest number of migrants abroad are from the Batken region, where 35% of households have at least one emigrant. In Jalal-Abad region – there are 27%, Osh region - 22%, Talas and Issyk-Kul regions - 4%, Naryn, Chui, Bishkek - 1.5%.

Flows of interstate migration from Kyrgyzstan are mainly directed to Russia and Kazakhstan. The proportion of labor migrants from Kyrgyzstan in the Russian Federation is more than 80%; in the second place is Kazakhstan - about 15%. As of December 4 2015, there are 542 928 Kyrgyz citizens on the territory of the Russian Federation, 214,946 of whom are women.

The number of migrants - Kyrgyz citizens in Russia by sex and age





- ### The reasons why women decide to migrate abroad:
- poverty
 - unemployment
 - disorders in the family
 - lack of housing
 - funds for the education of children
 - funds for the treatment of relatives
 - debts
 - family migration (family reunification)
 - other reasons (education, etc.)



Risks of female labor migration

- ✓ to fall into slavery
- ✓ to be trafficked
- ✓ to feel humiliated
- ✓ to lose family and children
- ✓ to be left without a career
- ✓ difficulties in reintegrating into society
- ✓ difficulties in obtaining pensions
- ✓ discriminatory risks (psychological, physical, sexual abuse)



Problems of migrant women workers:

- Limited access to health services
- Restricted access to education
- The complexity of the paperwork
- Low-paid wages (for illegal migration)
- Cheating & non-payment of wages
- Inadequate living conditions (migrants are forced to live together in small apartments)
- Difficulties in obtaining pensions. No common mechanisms between countries to ensure the pensions of migrant workers



The reasons for most of the problems of migrant women workers abroad:

- violation of rules of stay in the territory of the host country
- the difficulty of obtaining legal status
- difficulties in obtaining housing
- difficulties in finding a job with a decent wage
- legal illiteracy

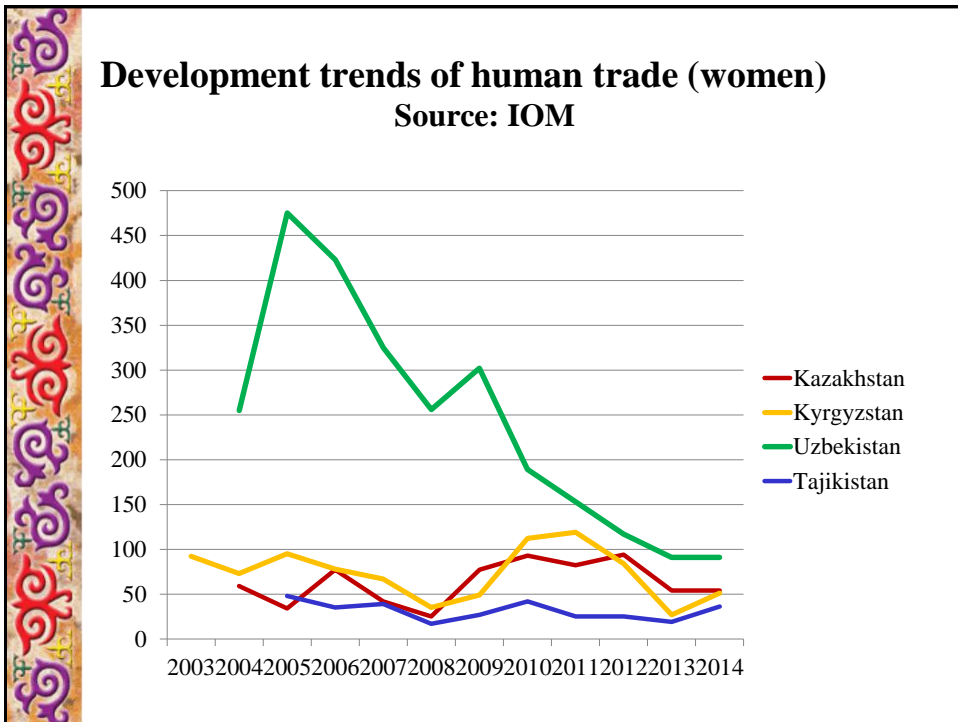
All this pushes Kyrgyz citizens into illegal migration, illegal sector of forced labor, where there are frequent violations of worker rights



The consequences of women's migration:

Illegal transit, forced labor, the slave trade, sexual exploitation, trafficking of women and children. The countries of destination of labor exploitation and slavery of Kyrgyz women and children are mainly Russia and Kazakhstan, less so - Turkey or the United Arab Emirates as well as Kyrgyzstan itself (this happens in particular in agriculture, forestry, construction and textile industries).

Among Kyrgyz citizens - the majority of victims are women.



- ### The consequences of women's migration:
- divorces
 - lack of benefits and pensions problems with the grown up children
 - difficulties with reintegration into the society of the country of origin
 - health problems
 - children left behind in their homeland without maternal care, attention and education
 - leaving of the undesirable born children in the shelter homes in the host country



With the growth of women in migration more children migrate together with one or both parents

Managing migration

Today, migration issues in Kyrgyzstan are one of the most pressing. Our country does not have an effective tool for providing all possible assistance to citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic in the employment and in providing them with legal and other protection in other countries, to address the problems of migrant workers abroad. However, the state adopted the organizational and legal measures to address the problems of Kyrgyz citizens migrants.



Managing migration

Kyrgyzstan's accession to the EAEU provides additional benefits for the workers of our country. It fundamentally changes their legal status, which allows them to gain equal rights in virtually all matters with the workers of other countries of EAEU.

On April 15, 2015 an agreement was signed in Moscow "On legal status of representation of the Ministry of Labour, migration and youth of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Russian Federation", which proposed to establish a representative office of the State Migration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Russian Federation.



Managing migration

National legislation in the field of migration

- ❖ The Constitution
- ❖ Law "On external labor migration"
- ❖ Law "On Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings"
- ❖ Law "On citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic"
- ❖ Law "On Refugees" KR
- ❖ Law "On State Guarantees of ethnic Kyrgyz, migrating to the Kyrgyz Republic"
- ❖ Secondary legislation (presidential decrees, resolutions of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic)
- ❖ Development of the Kyrgyz State Migration Policy Concept until 2030



Managing migration

During its period of independence the Kyrgyz Republic has acceded to a large number of international conventions, including 53 ILO Conventions, most of which relate to migrant workers.

An impressive list of multilateral and bilateral agreements between governments in the region reflects the tendency of preferences at the highest political level to achieve agreements between the countries of the region over the existing international instruments (conventions and agreements). Such agreements do not contain novelties of regulation of migration processes, and basically do not constitute effective control mechanisms, have low efficiency of the implementation, and are rather symbolic political instruments of foreign policy activity.

Hence, the state on behalf of the Government and the Parliament should work on the implementation of international agreements. The intergovernmental agreements are not fully realized



Recommendations to reduce the migration of women

Tasks of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic

- to monitor the Kyrgyz legislation in the field of migration
- improvement in the area of migration legislation
- control over the implementation of laws in the field of migration

Recommendations to reduce the migration of women

Tasks of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

- development of complex measures to regulate both internal and external migration of women
- raising the level of employment and the creation of conditions for increasing the number of jobs



THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!



**INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE PROMOTION OF
RESPONSIBLE
PARENTHOOD, INC.**

*“Abundant & Healthy Life for Each Filipino
Family”*



**FILNET INSTITUTE OF
LEADERSHIP AND
DEVELOPMENT, INC.**

IPPRP 10/29/2016

1

**ENSURING THE
RIGHTS OF THE
VULNERABLE IN
THE CONTEXT OF
MIGRATION**

IPPRP 10/29/2016

2

THE MIGRANT'S SITUATION:

- Human rights violation among migrant workers in Israel.
- Migrant workers deportation by the host country who took another medical tests (e.g. Saudi Arabia) without telling and or reporting the reason for deportation. (DOH)

- Filipinos and other Asian Nationalities working in Saudi Arabia were misplaced due to closure of companies and will be subject for deportation.
- In the deportation area, they were sexually exploited due to survival.

➤ **Access to general medical care** is difficult, depending on whether employers allow it.

➤ **Language barrier:** employment contracts were signed upon arrival at the host country written in foreign language.

PHILIPPINES

3

➤ **Alarming human trafficking in the Philippines through migration. Down south (Mindanao) as back door for trafficking young girls going to Malaysia.**

PHILIPPINES

3

PHILIPPINE MIGRATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS:

- Philippine has excellent migration policies, programs and services ensuring all benefits and protection before the migrant workers leave the country and when the migrant workers returned home to their country.
- Problem: Needed protection most especially among women domestic workers from their employers.

THE INTERFAITH AND FILNET MODEL FOR FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

**INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS IN ISTANBUL,
TURKEY AND NEW YORK, USA WITH UNFPA &
FAITH-BASED GROUPS ON SRH AGENDA**



**EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAM FOR
FILIPINO
MIGRANT
WORKERS**

1) INNOVATIVE ONLINE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

- Integration in the leadership and management curriculum legal issues on migrations, sexuality and reproductive rights, etc.
- Graduates of the program will serve as advocates and facilitators of the program.





2) ADOPT A “KABABAYAN” (FILIPINO MIGRANT) CARING PROGRAM:

- Filipino men and women who terminated, trafficked, exploited and maltreated were adopted and cared by group of Filipinos



3) ORIENTATION FOR FILIPINO MIGRANT YOUTH TRANSITIONING FOR A COLLEGE EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

- Pre-college orientation program which includes sexuality and reproductive health issues for children of Filipino migrant workers who completed their primary and secondary education among Filipino schools in Saudi Arabia accredited by the Philippine Department of Education.

4) ORIENTATION ON REINTEGRATING OR REPATRIATING MIGRANT WORKERS BACK TO THE PHILIPPINES

- Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) – Phil. Embassy & Consulate Office

IPPP 10/29/2016

17



RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Better policy formulation for migrant workers on access to health care in the host country and that employer shall comply.
- 2) RPRH Law demand generation and services be made available among consular offices and embassies for migrant workers to access.
- 3) Strengthening of relationship with the host country to strengthen services among deportation areas and closely monitor any illegal activities.
- 4) Setting-up of accredited and online schools for migrant workers.

RECOMMENDATIONS (CONT'D))

- 5) Strengthening of legal protection of migrant workers in the host country through employer's participation. E.g. banned employer's holding of migrant passports, freedom from outside communication, etc.
- 6) Active migrant community mobilization among migrant workers to help their fellows.
- 7) Engaging international NGOs/CSOs/FBOs in the area to supplement existing programs and services for exploited migrant workers.

THANK YOU...



**Office: IPPRP – 2/F HMRC Building Don Vicente Ave.
Peñafrancia, Cupang Antipolo City**
Tel. No. (02) 4772772
Email: ipprp.ph@gmail.com



ILC Singapore
International Longevity Centre
A Tsao Foundation Initiative

Session 5: Ensuring the Rights of the Vulnerable (in the context of migration)

By: Susana Concorde Harding
Director, International Longevity Centre Singapore
Tsao Foundation

11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference
4-5 November 2016
Bangkok, Thailand

TSAO FOUNDATION

ESTABLISHED IN 1993 IN SINGAPORE, BUT REGIONALLY ORIENTED

- Live in one's own home
- Be surrounded by loved ones
- Remain master of one's own destiny
- Have access to decent health care, especially if poor
- Charitable activities be sustained by self-generated revenue



OUR APPROACH

CATALYST FOR CHANGE- LONGEVITY IS OPPORTUNITY



Practice lab for innovative service models



Self care enabler and capacity builder



Evidence-based catalyst for change

ComSA@Whampoa

A community where people of all ages thrive

My contribution to the session

- Challenges of older people whose children are migrants
- Roles of older people in the context of the rising migrant population worldwide
- Very few study done but with good data for discussion

Challenges of older people with migrant children

1. Shift in their role from grandparents to 'substitute parents'-
 1. Higher incidence of depression and anxiety about the future
 2. Negative impact on children (academic, behavioral and emotional problems) with maternal migration more detrimental than paternal absence
2. Loss of potential caregivers- elderly parents receive lower time contributions from all children when one child migrates
3. No significant financial gain- for both Mexico and Cambodia study
4. Negative effects on health-mixed results (in the Mexico study, mental health resulting to poor health and social isolation while in Cambodia, not significant)

Roles of older people in the context of the rising migrant population worldwide

- Family values and family his/herstory
- Material support and monetary exchanges
- Self care is critical to health and psychological well-being
- Extended support network

- *But with enabling and supporting policies and social infrastructures in the community*



ILC Singapore
International Longevity Centre
A Tsao Foundation Initiative

Thank you

susanaharding@tsaofoundation.org

<http://www.tsaofoundation.org/>

<http://asiawomen.org.sg/>



Presented by Ms. Anjali Sen, IPPF

Distinguished Delegates,

Civil Society Partners,

Colleagues and friends,

Firstly, on behalf of IPPF, I would offer my deep condolences to the Royal Family, Government and People of Thailand on the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

I thank you very much for taking the time, during these two days, to dig deeper into the urgent matters relating to the status of women, preventing and ending violence against women and girls, ensuring girls and women's health throughout their life course, women's political and economic participation.

We have agreed that for change towards gender equality and women empowerment to be truly meaningful, it must be universal. It should not work only for SOME women; it should work for ALL women. The under-representation of women, unpaid care work, the dominance of women as unpaid caregivers, and Violence Against Women is a problem in every part of the world.

We are in this together to build partnerships, to amplify voices that must be heard. As we win a victory in one region, we must know that we have an obligation to fight for other women elsewhere. To those whom so much is given, so much is also expected. Here, we all together especially our parliamentarians are in a place where it is possible to make changes for others. During the meeting, we have heard reinforcement of the importance of investing in women, as when we invest in women, society, communities and countries gain much more. It has been proven

repeatedly that investing in women has a very high rate of return, both from a business and a human rights sense.

Our discussions also reiterated that women are not victims; women are solution-makers. Our narrative about women should not be about women needing things to be done for them. Women are mobilizing men to be partners because they are already doing things for themselves. This narrative is of a problem for society, in which everybody needs to take responsibility. We want to change the stereotypes amongst men as well, but it is equally important to empower women to accept that no one has a right to violate them. During our session on Women's Political Participation, it was evident that women understand the need to change the stereotypes about women, amongst women, including promoting more women parliamentarians.

In the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap report for 2015, it was argued that if we do not do things differently, if we do not take bolder steps in what we are doing, especially in politics and in the economy, it is going to take us 81 years to see parity in women's participation in the economy, and more than 50 years to see parity in participation in politics. Now, we do not want a child who is born today to be 81 years old before they can see parity in the economy, or 50 years old before they can see parity in politics. We need to make sure that we shorten the road ahead, but we must not lose the substance.

To break through barriers, we must go beyond boundaries, challenge, cultural, beliefs and practices to generate new ideas and take bold steps. This means placing all women and girls at the centre of the 2030 Agenda, but requires a specific focus on those who are most frequently excluded, including women and girls with disabilities, those living in rural poverty and those who are members of ethnic minorities, migrants, refugees and in humanitarian context.

Women are at the frontline of the outbreaks of threatening new epidemics or the impact of climate change, and at the same time are the primary caretakers of families and communities and advocates for peace and environmental sustainability. Yet women's leadership is insufficiently recognised and valued.

While the Asia-Pacific region has closed more than two-thirds of its gender gap, it still ranks second from the bottom in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index. In Asia and the Pacific, gender gaps in economic participation have barely changed for more than 20 years, with the gap at nearly 50 per cent in the South Asia sub-region. Today, only 22 per cent of the world's parliamentarians are women. At the current rate of progress, it will take another 50 years to reach gender equality in government positions.

We need not incremental change, but bold change, big change, and that is why we have got to act together, universally. And you will be in the forefront of this change, because you have seen so much and already achieved so much.

To turn words into actions we want to have more gender-responsive policies, programmes and regulations, and budgets that are gender sensitive. To turn girls' and women's silence into powerful and equal voices we not only want commitment to gender equality but also gender financing. Especially in Asia, where the potential for such a change is enormous. Of course, we all need funds to match our commitments. And this is indeed a key issue if we want to make gender equality happen. Despite significant increases in recent years, the overall funding resources for women empowerment actions are still not adequate. As shown by a recent OECD (Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development) analysis, there is still a gap between our commitments and our investments in gender equality and women's rights. In several countries, the legislation to eliminate violence against women and other gender equality mechanisms are not implemented due to a lack of funding. In others, women almost do not

participate in the economic life – this is neither "smart economics" nor social justice. And most importantly, this cannot lead to development. Having a self-standing Sustainable Development Goal on gender equality and women's rights could be transformative and we need to preserve it. The achievement of this vision will depend on resources at the domestic and international level.

IPPF recognizes an effective multi-sectoral approach is must to realise the 'leave no- one behind approach' and the commitment to 'reach the furthest behind first'. We believe that Women and girls must be recognised as key actors in the SDGs, and government ministries, (education, health, social services) work in tandem, ensuring fair distribution of resources to ensure, that girls are protected from harm, supported to stay in school and have access to SRH and CSE services. From the grassroots, to the national, to regional and global – voices must be joined up and relayed to ensure and an end to VAW and the strengthening of legislation to end child, early and forced marriage.

Not only is gender equality a vital end in itself, it also holds transformative potential for sustainable development. Our Vision 2020 manifesto –our 10-point plan to put sexual and reproductive health and rights at the heart of the international development agenda – calls on governments to take action to eliminate discrimination between men and women and to take steps to achieve equality of opportunity. In 2015, IPPF launched its Vision 2020 report focusing on eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls, ensuring their rights can be realized and achieving gender equality by 2020. You may access the full report from IPPF's website.

In my concluding remarks, I will summarize the recommendations of this report in 6 points as action points for the leaders present in this room:

Point No. 1: Support an enabling environment so that sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender equality become a reality.

Governments should include sexual and reproductive health and rights in national plans to ensure political prioritization and continued investment in sexual and reproductive health and rights. There must be a strong focus on girls and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, including harmful traditional practices that compromise their health and limit development in other areas of their lives.

Point No. 2: Continue and increase financial and political commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights to sustain the success of health interventions and to expand an increase possibilities for gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women.

Donors, multi-lateral institutions and national governments should continue and increase investment in the full range of sexual and reproductive health and rights services, including rights-based family planning.

Point No. 3: Measure the things that matter.

Governments must prioritize greater investment and effort to fill knowledge gaps and collect robust data. UN agencies and multi-lateral institutions should work with governments to increase data collection, disaggregated by sex and age.

Point No. 4: Engage men and boys as partners in gender transformative change by ensuring that sexual and reproductive health and rights are a reality for all

Civil society organizations, donors and multi-lateral institutions must involve men and boys as partners in programmes on sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls.

Point No 5: Take steps to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls by ensuring implementation of legislation that protects women from violence, and ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services that meet the needs of women and girls, particularly in fragile and conflict affected contexts.

Point No 6: Continue and increase investment at the grassroots level, to build women's individual and collective capacity to participate in political and public life.

Donors, multi-lateral institutions and civil society should continue and increase funding to grassroots organizations that build the capacity of women to participate individually and collectively across social, economic, political and public life.

Finally, I will reiterate the sentiments shared by the honb'le delegates:

**WOMEN WERE THE ENERGY OF THE PAST, THEY ARE THE ENERGY OF THE PRESENT
AND THEY ARE THE ENERGY OF THE FUTURE.**

Thank you.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

by

Hon. Dr. Jetn Siratranont

**Secretary General of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and
Development (AFPPD)**

at

11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference

November 4-5, 2016

Bangkok, Thailand

**Dear Honorable Speakers, Parliamentarians, Ministers,
Distinguished participants,**

1. First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your active participation at the 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference.
2. In our discussion, these two days, we have examined the entrenched barriers to gender equality and discussed effective measures and interventions to overcome them.
3. We have discussed women's and girls' rights and empowerment issues from a life-cycle approach. During two days of our work we stressed the importance of leaving no girls and no women behind, including the elderly and the vulnerable.
4. Let me briefly summarize our accomplishments over the past two days, major discussion points, recommendations and commitments we made as a regional network of Asia-Pacific parliamentarians.
5. This year the world has entered the new era of Sustainable Development Goals. The full realization of Goal number five -

achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls - is critical for the full implementation and achievement of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

6. We have discussed evidence-based approaches to elimination of violence against women and girls in all forms. To engage with men and boys in the fight to end gender-based violence and promote gender equality. The need for eradicating the practices of early, child and forced marriage has been highlighted in the discussions.
7. We have also discussed about the importance of ensuring women's health throughout the life cycle. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights are the key to ensuring health and wellbeing of every woman and girl regardless of their social, economic or marital status.
8. Young people must receive timely and quality information, education and SRH services. However, in case of a pregnancy, it is our responsibility to keep the girl in school and give her the full support to her continued access to education, health care and social protection.
9. In religious societies, we need to partner with faith-based organizations to enhance the rights of women and girls. Also the religious leaders are the key to empowering young people so that they make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.
10. In the session on increasing political participation of women we discussed the need to create space and opportunities for women of all ages and backgrounds to actively engage and participate in political activity. We highlighted the importance of

targets and quotas for women candidates and the necessity to create training and mentoring opportunities for women, especially young women interested in political leadership.

11. We further discussed the importance of economic participation of women, improving equal employment opportunity, ensuring social protection for women in the informal sector and recognizing the value of unpaid work. We acknowledged that gender gaps still exist both in developed and developing countries and we learnt successful approaches to address them in different contexts.
12. We discussed the trends of inter-regional migration and the trends of refugee migration. We acknowledged the needs of the most vulnerable women, such as women affected by climate change, women migrants, and climate refugees. Women face specific risks with relation to migration, such as discrimination and lack legal rights. There are a number of initiatives underway to address the protection issues.
13. Today, we have adopted a very progressive and comprehensive Statement of Commitment and have pledged to work together for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and leave no women and no girls behind.
14. Dear participants, I count on you to go back to your countries and inform parliamentarians about our discussions. The full realization of Gender Equality is crucial for achieving the SDGs.
15. Our role as parliamentarians is essential in implementation of the SDGs through enactment of legislation, allocation of

sufficient budgets and also ensuring governments' accountability for the effective implementation of their commitments.

16. We need to have more parliamentarians on our side to succeed.

17. Thank you very much!