



*Report of the*

# Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development 12th General Assembly

*7-8 October 2017  
Colombo, Sri Lanka*



From  
the People of Japan



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Sri Lanka Forum of Parliamentarians on Population  
and Sustainable Development



ASIAN FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT (AFPPD)

REPORT

ASIAN FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
12<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
*Engaging Parliamentarians, Pursuing Human Development*

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*Participants of the AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 7-8 October 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka*

*The contents of this report were based on the presentations, speeches and remarks made by the participants of the AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, and do not necessarily reflect the positions of the Forum.*

## Opening session

### Lighting the lamp

Dr. Mika Marumoto welcomed all parliamentarians and distinguished guests, Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Hon. Mr. S.B. Dissanayake, Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, Hon. Mr. Wasantha Aluwihare, Mr. Koji Yagi, Mr. Arthur Erken, Professor Lakshman Dissanayake, and honourable representatives of the AFPPD national committees.



AFPPD 12th General Assembly, 7-8 October 2017, officially opened through Sri Lanka's traditional lamp lighting ceremony. (Left to right) Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Minister of Special Assignments, Sri Lanka; Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, MP Australia and Vice Chairperson, AFPPD; and Hon. Mr. Wasantha Aluwihare, State Minister of Agriculture, Sri Lanka. (Photo: AFPPD)

- *Assembly Chairperson:* Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, MP Australia; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD

Hon. Ms. Sudmalis welcomed all participants and called the meeting to order. Hon. Ms. Sudmalis explained that the AFPPD Chairperson, Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi, was unable to attend because of political events in Japan. She thanks participants for taking the journey to Sri Lanka and dedicating the time to this meeting. She then introduced Hon. Professor Takemi's video message.

### Opening statements

- Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi, MP Japan; Chairperson, AFPPD

Speaking via video message, Hon. Professor Takemi welcomed all General Assembly participants and apologized for being unable to attend the meeting, citing Japan's recent dissolution of the Lower House and escalating tensions with North Korea, requiring him to remain in Tokyo. He noted that according to the *AFPPD Constitution*, the Vice-Chairperson would stand in for the Chairperson, and thanked Hon. Ms. Sudmalis for accepting this responsibility on short notice.

Hon. Professor Takemi also thanked the government of Sri Lanka for hosting the General Assembly. In particular, he thanked Hon. Minister S. B. Dissanayake, Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Sustainable Development (SLPPD), and all Sri

Lanka government leaders, noting that the country is one of AFPPD's founding members and had recently re-activated its National Committee last year.

Hon. Professor Takemi also congratulated the national committees and standing committees for their achievements on successfully mainstreaming *AFPPD Strategic Plan 2016–2019* at national, regional and global levels. He noted that this General Assembly is a unique moment for reflection at the mid-way point in AFPPD's strategic planning cycle, and would be a time to evaluate AFPPD's performance and accelerate national government actions towards the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hon. Professor Takemi also noted the important role parliamentarians play in ensuring relevant laws are in place and sufficient budgets are allocated for the realization of those laws in order to promote human development, reinforce accountability, and strengthen our commitment to all necessary causes and issues.

Hon. Professor Takemi noted that AFPPD has about 30 member countries, and its network is continuing to grow, having added Tuvalu and Iran most recently. He noted that together, AFPPD's member countries account for approximately 55% of the world's population, and urged parliamentarians to embrace their critical role in achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind.

Hon. Ms. Sudmalis thanked the Chairperson for sending a message and for his commitment to human development. She then introduced Hon. Mr. Dissanayake to give opening remarks.

- Hon. Mr. S.B. Dissanayake, MP, Minister of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; Chairperson, (SLPPD)

Hon. Mr. Dissanayake opened his remarks by greeting the honourable participants and other attendees, as well as the AFPPD Executive Director. He noted that AFPPD was established in 1981 as a network of lawmakers in the Region seeking to address population and development issues. AFPPD consists of 30 National Committees. One of AFPPD's main focus areas is women's and girls' rights, and in particular, ensuring their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

AFPPD's Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment seeks to advance gender equality across the region. The Standing Committee on Investing in Youth looks to pursue sustainable development through developing youth. The Standing Committee on Active Ageing seeks to protect the rights of older persons through policies and legal frameworks.

Sri Lanka was one of the founding members of AFPPD, focusing on youth unemployment, population ageing, rising abortion rates, and environmental degradation. Sri Lanka's continued commitment to population and development is shown through its hosting of the 27<sup>th</sup> Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development in 2011, as well as other conferences related to violence against women (VAW) and other similar issues.

### **Welcome speeches**

- Hon. Mr. Wasantha Aluwihare, MP, State Minister of Agriculture, Sri Lanka

Hon. Mr. Aluwihare greeted all honourable guests at the front of the assembly. He also cited the launch of the AFPPD in 1981, and noted that the Asia-Pacific countries have continued to have strong relationships to work on population and development issues together since that time, as well as AFPPD's role in those efforts. In 2004–2005, AFPPD worked together with Sri Lankan officials on the tsunami response, and in 2015, the Sri Lanka National Committee was re-activated. Noting one of Sri Lanka's specific achievements, Hon. Mr. Aluwihare recalled the work of the Minister of Child Affairs on combating violence against children, and the first meeting of the National Partnership to End Violence Against Children was held earlier this year.

Hon. Mr. Aluwihare further noted the importance of guaranteeing women's and girls' equal rights and opportunities, and giving them access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. He noted that the three strategic areas of AFPPD include gender equality and women's empowerment, investing in youth, and active ageing.



- Mr. Koji Yagi, Charge d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of Japan in Colombo, Sri Lanka

Mr. Yagi greeted all participants, noting the attendance of the distinguished guests. He thanked the government of Sri Lanka for hosting this General Assembly. Mr. Yagi noted that globalization has brought great benefits to the world, but has also brought challenges to human security such as climate change, terrorism, refugee issues, and infectious diseases. Population and development, in particular universal health coverage (UHC), including reproductive health are essential for addressing some of these challenges and achieving many of the 2030 goals and ensuring that no one is left behind.

In the past year, Mr. Yagi noted that AFPPD has played a key leadership role in bringing gender equality and women's empowerment, investing in youth, and healthy and active ageing into the national, regional, and global arenas. The Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, held in Tokyo in May of 2016 hosted over 140 parliamentarians representing over 60 countries. A multistakeholder forum held in Vietnam in August of this year was another key occasion to promote regional cooperation on ageing issues.

Colombo hosted the first International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in 1979, which contributed to the establishment of AFPPD in 1981. Sri Lanka government has also promoted gender equality and women's empowerment, and has taken extraordinary steps to combat sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). In 2016, Sri Lanka adopted a national plan on women-headed households, and has made all levels of education free. Youth empowerment in Sri Lanka is facilitated through strengthening their entrepreneurial skills.

At this forum, AFPPD is evaluating its achievement towards its strategic goals halfway through its strategic cycle. In particular, Mr. Yagi commended the AFPPD for promoting UHC as a means of establishing health as the basis for human development, leaving no one behind. Mr. Yagi closed his remarks by extending his support to the Forum and hoped for a successful meeting for all participants.

### Keynote speeches



*Professor Lakshman Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka spoke of the emerging population trends in the Asia-Pacific region.*

- Professor Lakshman Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo

Professor Dissanayake welcomed all participants and greeted the honoured guests to the General Assembly meeting. Professor Dissanayake shared his objectives in his speech of raising awareness around emerging population trends in the region. He noted that the changing population dynamics in the coming decades could be seen as challenges or as opportunities for change and growth. Demography is not destiny, and policies that respond to demographic challenges should be rights-based, utilizing the demographic dividend and increasing economic growth in Asia. Professor Dissanayake explained that, whatever stage a country is in of its

demographic transition, youth are a key demographic force. The population of the Asia-Pacific region is currently growing at 0.9% per year, down from 2% in the late 1980s. However, he also noted that at least half the countries in the region have not yet stabilized their birth rate, including Sri Lanka. As fertility rates fall, a youth bulge in the labour force emerges. Professor Dissanayake noted that this calls for a need for strong policies on education, health, and economic growth to maximize the demographic dividend. The demographic dividend has already occurred in Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Republic of Korea, and Taiwan. It can last for a few decades, and is transitory in nature. In Sri Lanka, Professor Dissanayake explained, the potential for demographic dividend may last until the year 2037. But making the most of the demographic dividend is policy dependent, and we must invest in youth to ensure we take advantage of this unique time period. This includes building up the economy so that it can absorb the higher skilled and growing workforce that is a result of positive education policies and education sector growth.

Professor Dissanayake noted that as nations move through demographic transition, fertility and mortality rates drop. Among older populations, a larger proportion will be women. We will move from youth to older person dependency. The proportion of the population aged 85 and older will grow at an even faster rate. This shift means healthcare and social protection schemes must be re-evaluated and strengthened. Multi-generational families will also continue to grow. The oldest old will have a high level of disability, which must be addressed through policies. Professor Dissanayake explained that, in 2050, elderly female population would be larger, and due to the relatively lower amount of savings and fewer skills women have the chance to acquire, they will need additional support. Communicable diseases increasing, and men's shorter life expectancy must be understood and addressed, and healthy life expectancy must continue to be improved. Professor Dissanayake also noted that women in Sri Lanka report spending more years in a self-assessed disability state than men, harming the enjoyment of their healthy years of life.

Professor Dissanayake identified migration as an important aspect of population change, and as part of the SDGs. He noted that migration can be a driving force for sustainable development and have benefits to both sending and receiving countries and to families as well. However, it can also create inequalities and vulnerabilities, and; where migration is not open, it can happen outside of the law and result in the exploitation of people. Currently, Professor Dissanayake recalled that the Asia-Pacific region hosts approximately one-third of the world's refugees, supporting the need for policies providing work opportunities to refugees. He urged parliamentarians to incorporate population dynamics into policy at all levels, and noted that demographic transition present a unique opportunity to tackle key issues through policy reforms.

- Mr. Arthur Erken, Director, Division of Communications and Strategic Partnership, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



*Mr. Arthur Erken, Director, Division of Communications and Strategic Partnerships, UNFPA, urged the participants to work together on cross-cutting, cross-border issues to create truly transformative change.*



Mr. Erken greeted the distinguished guests and participants, commending their commitment to promoting population issues in national policies and at the regional and global levels. He thanked all the governments and forums for promoting the 1994 ICPD agenda. He also thanked the government of Sri Lanka for hosting, and other partners for joining the meeting.

Mr. Erken also recognized that the AFPPD and its members have been vital to supporting the ICPD agenda, including through creating the enabling environment for the rights to be realized. In particular, he noted the long-term benefits of these efforts extend to women. Mr. Erken noted that sexual and reproductive health has improved considerably since the ICPD was adopted, and maternal deaths have fallen by about half worldwide. However, he also noted that many of the world's poor are still without access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and one-third of the global burden of disease for women of reproductive age is related to poor sexual and reproductive health. He noted that many women who want to avoid pregnancy are not using an effective contraception because they do not have access to contraception. The maternal death rate per day is over 800 women and adolescent girls, which is as if two jumbo jets full of women crash every day due to maternal deaths.

Mr. Erken urged the participants to work together on cross-cutting, cross-border issues to create truly transformative change. He recalled the underlying call of the SDGs, and urged participants to leave no one behind, and to start with those furthest behind. The sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls must be the priority, and addressing the unmet need for family is one of the single most cost-effective investments overall. In supporting the achievement of all the other goals, Mr. Erken also noted that SDG 16 urges parliamentarians to support the building up of their institutions, and shows that democratic governance is not an end in itself, but is a cornerstone of sustainable development.

Mr. Erken closed his remarks by introducing UNFPA's new strategic plan, which promises to leave no one behind by 2030. The pillars of the plan include achieving zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero (gender-based violence) GBV and harmful practices against women and girls. He would like to call upon parliamentarians to join in these efforts, and noted that parliamentarians are essential partners for UNFPA. Mr. Erken noted that parliamentarians have the power to make a real difference, and reminded them that UNFPA stands with them to make a real difference.

### **Speech by Chief Guest**



*Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, MP, Minister of Special Assignments, Sri Lanka, highlighted in his speech that hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly reflected Sri Lanka's commitment to addressing population issues.*



- Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, MP, Minister of Special Assignments, Sri Lanka

Hon. Dr. Amunugama greeted the guests and thanked the participants for joining this meeting. He agreed with UNFPA's drive to address population issues in order to support all other development efforts. Hon. Dr. Amunugama noted that these messages must also be taken into consideration at the country level to ensure change is sustainable and brought about through elected representatives. He noted that, among the representatives of the Asia-Pacific, almost two-thirds of the world's population is represented. However, he also noted that some of the most deprived and most backward countries for the treatment of women and youth are also represented by our countries. He noted that, at times, religious dignitaries have intervened on these issues, although sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse.

Hon. Dr. Amunugama noted that having this General Assembly in Colombo reflects Sri Lanka's efforts to research and understand population dynamics. Since the 1970s, he noted that some approaches to population dynamics were tried, such as one- and two-child policies, and in fact, Sri Lanka adopted a two-child policy at one time. These cohorts from the smaller families are now graduating into later stages of life and moving toward their working and retirement years.

Hon. Dr. Amunugama also reported that Sri Lanka scored very high on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for gender equality, life expectancy, low maternal deaths, rural health schemes, and literacy, and hoped that other developing countries could look to the Sri Lankan example for innovative ideas to support sustainable development. Citing Amartya Sen, Hon. Dr. Amunugama noted the role of social justice and equity in development, and recognized that growth without democracy will not last. He also urged parliamentarians to recognize that, at the heart of the struggle for social justice, emphasis must be placed on women and youth. Where women are not properly educated, they have unequal access to health, so he urged participants to take up issues of social justice in this General Assembly as well. Parliamentary democracy must support the goal of achieving social justice, and Sri Lanka provides an example of emerging from war, achieving ethnic reconciliation, and remaining one of the safest countries on earth.

## AFPPD mid-term strategic review session: Agenda setting

- *Session Chairperson: Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, MP Australia; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD*

### Welcome ceremony: Introduction of AFPPD's reactivated (Sri Lanka and Iran) and new (Tuvalu) national committees



*On behalf of the 12th AFPPD General Assembly, Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis (MP Australia), Vice Chairperson of AFPPD welcomed back the recently strengthened Sri Lanka Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Sustainable Development (SLPPD), headed by Hon. Mr. S.B. Dissanayake (MP Sri Lanka), Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare (above); and the Iranian Parliamentarians on Population and Development Committee (IRPPDC), represented by Hon. Dr. Hon. Dr. Abdolreza Azizi (MP Iran) and Vice Chairperson of AFPPD, Hon. Dr. Mohammad Vahdati Halan (MP Iran), and Hon. Mr. Masood Rezaei (MP Iran). (Photo: AFPPD)*

Hon. Mr. Dissanayake welcomed the new delegates to the front for a photo, and the Vice Chairperson thanked all the new and reactivated members for their participation in the Forum.

*A short slideshow on AFPPD's First Two Years of the AFPPD Strategic Plan 2016–2019 was shown.*

## **Agenda setting and AFPPD mid-term review of implementation of the *AFPPD Strategic Plan 2016–2019*: Objectives and expected results of the 12th General Assembly**

- Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director, AFPPD

Dr. Marumoto welcomed participants to the General Assembly and set forth the objectives for the meeting. She recalled that the constitution of AFPPD was amended in 2015, where the internal roles of AFPPD's major stakeholders were clarified. Specifically, the role of the standing committees to provide strategic advice to AFPPD were clarified. The terms of office holders were also changed from three to four years, and the strategic cycle was changed to four years.

Dr. Marumoto noted that AFPPD's activities are guided by its constitution, strategic plan and results framework, and the Standing Committee priorities and issue frameworks.

The results framework includes four outcomes: (1) national capacity building; (2) effective partnership building; (3) political influence; and (4) good governance. The AFPPD thematic framework includes the three strategic priority issues: (1) Gender equality and women's empowerment; (2) Investing in youth; and (3) Active ageing. In each issue area, safety and security, health, and participation are considered cross-cutting issues, as well as climate change and migration. Standing committees exist for each of the three priority issues, and a number of Standing Committee meetings have been held in the first two years of the strategic cycle.

Dr. Marumoto also identified the three objectives of the General Assembly meeting. Firstly, to critically review the progress of AFPPD towards its strategic outcomes. Next, to evaluate improvements made so far and challenges that remain in strengthening AFPPD's good governance. And finally, to deliberate on ways forward to work on the strategic priority issues in an effective, impactful, relevant, efficient, and sustainable way for the rest of the strategic plan period.

Dr. Marumoto explained that, after the agenda setting session and reports from the standing committees, national committees will provide their reports. On the second day of the meeting, the General Assembly will hear from partners, discuss political influence, and discuss governance session. The third day of the meeting will involve a visit to the Sri Lankan Youth Parliament and a strategic planning workshop.

Dr. Marumoto identified the expected results of the General Assembly as better understanding AFPPD's guiding documents and what can be achieved collectively through the General Assembly, revisiting and evaluating the strategic plan and *Standing Committees Strategic Priorities Framework* and revising if needed, and agreeing on intermediate goals for each Standing Committee.

Dr. Marumoto reiterated AFPPD's vision for the Assembly: to ensure demographic issues are integrated into national and regional plans; to ensure all women and girls have equal rights to lead safe, healthy, and dignified lives, and to ensure all women have access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. She also noted AFPPD's mission as realizing its vision through parliamentary work, and specifically through advancing policy and legislative reform, holding governments accountable for their commitments to implementation, and advocating for increased budgetary support for policies and programmes in the strategic priority areas.

## Reports on AFPPD standing committees activities: Reflections and ways forward



*Hon. Mrs. Mahalaxmi Dina Upadhyay, MP Nepal, provided updates on the activities of the Standing Committees on Investing in Youth and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, while Hon. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Mai, MP Vietnam, reported on the Standing Committee on Active Ageing. (Photo: AFPPD)*

### (1) Investing in Youth

- Hon. Mrs. Mahalaxmi Dina Upadhyay, MP Nepal

Hon. Mrs. Mahalaxmi Dina Upadhyay reported on the activities of the Standing Committee on Investing in Youth. First, she reported that a joint meeting of the standing committees on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and on Investing in Youth was held in Kathmandu in March 2016. This group approved the 11 points of the Kathmandu Declaration.

The Standing Committee on Investing in Youth is also committed to implementing laws and formulating the necessary policies to prevent early and forced marriage, and to consider early and forced marriage as a harmful practice, and as a serious crime. Specifically, the Standing Committee has concluded that the minimum marriage age should be no lower than 18 for either sex.

She also reported that the Standing Committee has a priority of facilitating education and awareness-raising on sexual and reproductive health and rights for youth, and especially for girls. She furthermore noted that in March 2017, another joint meeting of the standing committees on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and on Investing in Youth was held in Bangkok, and an Executive Committee Meeting was held on 6 October 2017 in Colombo.

Hon. Mrs. Upadhyay also reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee on Investing in Youth in Bishkek earlier this year focused on the theme of education for employment, radicalization, sexual and reproductive health and rights, youth participation in politics, violence, alcohol and drug addiction, and brain drain among other topics. The Committee also addressed the importance of conducting national surveys to understand the demand and supply side of youth employment, as well as addressing youth's role in climate change mitigation, holding mock youth parliaments, adopting quotas for youth participation in politics, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and promoting financial literacy.

In 2018, the Committee has proposed a sub-regional conference on youth in Kazakhstan, incorporating topics such as budget analysis, implement the national-level surveys to understand demand and supply of jobs for youth, incorporating vocational and life skills education for youth, and organize dedicated workshops to address substance abuse among youth. The Committee is interested in looking into a partnership with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Fact-Finding Committee (AIFOCOM) to combat drug-use in the region, as well as taking up both the Colombo Process and Abu Dhabi Dialogue and migration issues during the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

## (2) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

- Hon. Mrs. Mahalaxmi Dina Upadhyay, MP Nepal

Hon. Mrs. Upadhyay also reported on the Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, noting that a priority has been placed on gender-responsive budgeting. The Committee would like to see a workshop held on this topic, and a Gender-Responsive Budget Committee (GRBC) has been formed in the Ministry of Finance to guide capacity-building of women and to facilitate women's employment and participation.

The Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment also discussed implementing Mock Parliaments for women by all AFPPD National Committee members between 2017 and 2019. Nepal had subsequently adopted a new quota of 40% women's representation at local government and 33% representation at higher levels, where recent local government election results confirm women's representation is above the 40% expectation. The Committee will seek to raise relevant issues surrounding the "Global Gag Rule", and consider collective Asia-Pacific parliamentary actions, to address them.

## (3) Active Ageing

- Hon. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Mai, MP Vietnam

Hon. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Mai reported that in September 2016, the Standing Committee on Active Ageing met in Hanoi, and in August 2017 in Ho Chi Minh City. At the latter meeting, both AFPPD and APEC members were in attendance. The Committee discussed community-based long term care and brought experts to inform the discussion. Evidence-based policy making for long-term care was a theme of the discussions, and this issue is becoming increasingly important for each country. Hon. Hoang Mai reported that a small survey was conducted in Vietnam which showed the majority of Vietnamese preferred to stay home to get care from family members as they age. The survey also showed preferences for some important financial policies, such as tax exemptions for caregivers and integrating long-term care into the social security system. Because quality research and evidence is essential to good policy, the Standing Committee recommended that each National Committee undertake a national survey to determine the need for long-term care.

Furthermore, Hon. Mr. Hoang Mai noted that ageing is no longer just a national issue, and is now a global one as there is a worldwide shortage of health care workers, especially long-term care providers. The Committee discussed the possibility of harmonizing care standards across national borders, and recommended that national training standards and a tiered approach to long-term care training should be developed to ensure the quality of care. Cross-border collaboration to address potential immigration and certification issues should be explored. The Standing Committee also shared best practices in long-term care.

Hon. Mr. Hoang Mai noted that, as ageing as a global issue and a global movement, the rights of older persons must be protected at the international level. The Ninth Session of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing will meet next year to consider the rights of older persons to autonomy, independence, and long-term care. The Standing Committee hopes to see these rights remain as priorities on the global agenda. Hon. Mr. Hoang Mai also noted that, as AFPPD is welcoming its reactivated member, Iran, and Executive Committee approved holding the next the Standing Committee meeting on Active Ageing in Iran next year, alongside the international ageing conference being sponsored by the Social Commission of Iran.



## Reflection

- Hon. Mr. Dilan Perera, MP, State Minister of Highways, Sri Lanka

Hon. Mr. Dilan Perera shared his reflections on attending the workshop on vulnerable populations in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan earlier this year. When he left for the meeting, it was only his 24<sup>th</sup> day in parliament. He had been dismayed that many conferences he attended in the past were merely “talk shops.” However, while meeting in Bishkek, the delegates decided to visit a youth mock parliament as observers, and based on his recommendation, the General Assembly delegates will attend the Sri Lankan Youth Parliament in a few days. Hon. Mr. Perera also previously served as Chair-in-Office of the Colombo Process, and proposed in Bishkek that AFPPD facilitate communication between the Colombo Process and Abu Dhabi Dialogue to address migration and foreign employment issues, which AFPPD is following up on. While in Bishkek, Hon. Mr. Perera noted that the delegates also called for increased career guidance for youth. Furthermore, as quotas were discussed in Bishkek, Hon. Mr. Perera reported that Sri Lanka just adopted legislation to provide women a 25% share in local government, and there is also a movement to incorporate a quota for the national parliament into the new constitution as well. All of these examples were for him evidence of the vibrant and active role AFPPD is playing in the region in facilitating policy and legislative reform to support sustainable development.

## Floor discussion

Hon. Mrs. Sanjida Khanam (MP Bangladesh) noted that youth are a valued and respected asset to society, and in Bangladesh’s present government, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is very aware of the importance of youth development. She reported that Bangladesh has recently adopted a National Youth Policy, and the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 2017. She then asked the panellists for their comments on key elements to support youth development.

Hon. Mrs. Upadhyay responded by noting the importance of youth mock parliaments, as well as a national youth policy that engages youth in all sectors, including employment, education, and others. She also noted that AFPPD uses youth programs to prioritize youth development in multiple sectors.

Hon. Dr. Mohammad Vahdahti Halan (MP Islamic Republic of Iran) noted that, in order to address the rights of children and youth, peace and stability must be prioritized, and security and safety should be protected. He then asked if the AFPPD focuses on stabilizing the security of countries and providing justice and capacity building for children and women, and if AFPPD has any special programmes in this regard.

Dr. Marumoto reported that the AFPPD has held conferences on child marriage and trafficking in persons, which are some of the issues AFPPD can have a more direct impact on. She noted that AFPPD cannot provide direct funding to stabilize the political situation in countries, but it can support parliamentarians in working on these issues from a legislative and policy perspective. She also noted that AFPPD would like to consider ways in which to better mainstream security and stabilization issues into its work, as these issues overlap with women’s issues in particular. Whereas security and stabilization and women’s and children’s issues are addressed by separate ministries, parliamentarians’ roles should include cross-cutting and multi-sectoral approaches to these problems.

H.E. Mr. Jigme Zangpo (Speaker, Bhutan) noted that he was looking forward to attending the youth mock parliament, which Bhutan has also been doing since 2014. He reported that Bhutan has a Children’s Constitution, and over 1,000 children in the parliament. He also noted that 220 students have signed the Children’s Constitution, and in Bhutan it is considered as a parallel constitution. H.E. Mr. Zangpo explained that the youth parliament representatives are elected from youth clubs in Bhutan. He then posed a question to his Sri Lankan colleagues as to whether they have a framework like a constitution for youth to work in, and also what kind of issues are debated in the youth parliament sessions. In particular, he noted that as we discuss issues related to school curriculum, a possibility of politicizing the school system could arise.

Hon. Mr. Perera reported that, in Sri Lanka, youth clubs are school-based, and they vote and elect their own speakers and prime ministers from within their schools. The youth parliament draws representatives from these school parliaments, and 10-15 youth parliamentarians from various fields also sit in the national parliament. About 20% of the representatives in the youth parliament have become members of provincial councils, and have served in other government positions as well. He explained to participants that when they observe the youth parliament in a few days, they will be debating the constitutional amendment process.



## National committees reporting session (1)

### Strategic outcome 1: National capacity building

- *Facilitator:* Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director, AFPPD
- *Session Chairperson:* Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, MP Australia; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD

Hon. Ms. Sudmalis explained to participants that the national committee reporting supports Strategic Outcome 1 of AFPPD's Strategic Framework, which is the national committee capacity building. The projects and actions reported by National Committees are critical in ensuring our trajectory toward reaching the SDGs.

#### (1) Australia

Hon. Ms. Sudmalis reported that Australia's Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (APGPD) was formed in 1995, and has worked to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights both internationally and domestically. Specifically, the APGPD works to engage members of the federal parliament to promote women's rights and advance women's sexual and reproductive health and rights in the neighbouring countries in the Pacific. Dr. Sharman Stone, the former Chair of the APGPD, is now Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls, where she advocates for gender pay equity and ending trafficking in persons and child marriage.

APGPD is now working on a new white paper for Australia's foreign policy, foreseeing the future of Australia's role in global politics, which should be released by the end of the year. Hon. Ms. Sudmalis is personally very concerned about the US Global Gag Rule impacting a number of projects around the world. She would also like to see if an Australian youth parliament could be launched, and the APGPD will be meeting soon after this General Assembly, where she can raise these issues.

#### (2) Cook Islands

Hon. Mr. Toka Hagai (MP Cook Islands) reported that in 2015, Parliament formalized a Family Law Bills Committee, with both opposition and government party members, to look into problems faced by the elderly, women, and youth. This Committee conducted consultations all across the main island, and also made an effort to conduct outreach on the outer islands as well. In June 2016, the parliament passed the Family Protection and Support Act. This law will be effective in December of 2017, to allow time for the Ministries responsible to implement it to prepare for implementing and supporting the new law. Hon. Mr. Hagai noted that they are prepared to face challenges in the implementation of this law. He also noted that the bill will be taken to schools to educate children on its contents. Hon. Mr. Hagai reported that the Cook Islands has also recently overhauled its Crimes Act, and community consultations are already underway, although outside funding may be needed to take the bill to outer islands and to do more consultations.

Hon. Ms. Vainetutai Rose Brown (MP Cook Islands) reported that the Cook Islands has launched a 5-year plan to incorporate the SDGs and the AFPPD strategic plan into the national agenda. This national plan has 16 specific goals, including a focus on women, youth, elderly, and the disabled. Hon. Ms. Brown reported that the government has made leaving no one behind among its main development goals, which is in line with one of the local sayings on the Cook Islands, that no one in the tribe can be forgotten. She also reported that the 5-year vision is for everyone on the Cook Islands to enjoy the highest quality of life in harmony, and they are looking to accelerate gender equality as well as advancing the rights of youth, elderly, and the disabled. Hon. Ms. Brown noted that the parliament of the Cook Islands has 14% representation of women, and holds mock parliaments and youth parliaments to encourage youth to join national and local politics. However, Hon. Ms. Brown noted that funding remains a major challenge for a lot of these activities, but they remain committed to improving transparency and accountability, and ensuring a better future for all our citizens.

### (3) New Zealand

Ms. Alexandra Hill reported that in May 2017, the New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development (NZPPD) submitted a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs about the Global Gag Rule to urge the Government of New Zealand to put more funding toward supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Pacific due to declining US funding in that area. The NZPPD organizes quarterly meetings as well as other meetings, and briefed the new government. Ms. Hill also reported that the NZPPD has conducted partnership building with Pacific parliaments.

Ms. Hill reported that Hon. Ms. Jo Hayes drafted the amendment to the Marriage Bill, which came out of the Kathmandu Declaration. Hon. Ms. Rita Bond spoke with young women following the second Standing Committee Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Investing in youth about political participation of youth. In 2016, the NZPPD launched a report on engaging boys and men in sexual and reproductive health issues in the Pacific, with recommendations based on a parliamentary roundtable, and the report has been disseminated to 25 Pacific parliaments. She reported that the NZPPD also hosted a workshop on the Agenda 2030 for Pacific Parliaments to increase knowledge and capacity on the SDGs, focusing on the cross-cutting themes of SDG 3 (Health) and 5 (Gender equality). NZPPD's new activities will be decided after the new government is formed, and will focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights, the status of women, sustainable development, and development assistance in the Pacific.

Ms. Hill also provided a recommendation for AFPPD to schedule time for regional dialogue and collaboration at every meeting.

### (4) Papua New Guinea

Ms. Mandy Newton reported that Papua New Guinea has a population of approximately 8 million people, 20% of whom live in urban areas. She reported that maternal health is a major challenge in Papua New Guinea, and the Safe Motherhood Alliance encourages collaboration and communication between various agencies working on maternal health issues. The Papua New Guinea Parliamentary Group on Population and Sustainable Development meets on a quarterly basis. In 2017, Papua New Guinea adopted a national strategy to prevent and respond to GBV, and launched a Reproductive Health Strategy. A youth program has reached 14,000 beneficiaries, and free education has been in place since 2014. In 2016, the economic downturn affected the Papua New Guinea government's ability to continue delivering services, and there are very few women running for office in the country. In fact, only three women held office before the 2017 election, and now no women are holding elected office.

### (5) Afghanistan

Hon. Ms. Gololai Nur Safi (MP Afghanistan), Chair of the National Committee on Population and Development, thanked the AFPPD for bringing this group of parliamentarians together to discuss issues of population and development. Hon. Ms. Safi reported on various challenges and achievements of the National Committee in past few years. The Afghanistan Forum on Parliamentarians on Population and Development has a team of 30 parliamentarians and receives technical assistance from UNFPA Afghanistan. Since it was formed, Hon. Ms. Safi reported that the forum has conducted seminars on different population and development issues, and its main goal is to enhance the capacity of members on population and development issues. Specifically, Hon. Ms. Safi noted that national population policy, maternal mortality, elimination of early and child marriage, and girls' education are the forum's main priorities. The Ministry of Economy has led the drafting of the first National Population Policy, to be submitted to members of parliament, which highlights the role of parliamentarians in addressing population issues. A comprehensive strategy to address early marriage has also been formulated, but needs an implementation plan. Hon. Ms. Safi noted the need to continue building parliamentary capacity for addressing human development issues, and Afghanistan has been successful in increasing the number of hospitals, clinics, midwives, doctors, and other health services available nationwide. She reported that Afghanistan has seen a major drop in maternal mortality since 1990, and the infant mortality rate

has dropped as well as life expectancy continues to grow. She noted that, although Afghanistan faces insecurity, corruption, and cultural barriers, they will continue to work to address population issues at the national level.

#### (6) Bangladesh

Hon. Dr. A.F.M. Ruhul Haque (MP Bangladesh) reported that the population growth rate in Bangladesh is starting to stabilize, and advances in women's empowerment have been positive. For instance, as the last Speaker of Parliament was a woman, women have also been leaders of the house and the opposition party. The deputy leader of the house is also a woman, as well as the Prime Minister. Hon. Dr. Haque noted that many regions have adopted laws and policies to address child marriage, and they have had success in enforcing the law punishing parents who allow their underage girls to marry. Hon. Dr. Haque also reported that a National Youth Policy was recently adopted.

Hon. Dr. Haque shared some of the National Committee's achievements in community engagement and training, through engaging all parliamentarians in population and development issues, and connecting parliamentarians and community leaders and members to address these issues. He also recalled the recent pledge of the government to eliminate child marriage by 2035, noting in particular that young girls are now beginning to speak out when they are being asked to marry and are becoming empowered to protect themselves against child marriage. Furthermore, he reported that compulsory education has now been increased to cover ages 5-12 years, books are provided to children free of charge, and stipends are provided to families to promote girls' education. Hon. Dr. Haque expressed his hope that AFPPD continues to arrange regular meetings to contribute to the issues embodied in the ICPD, and he also hoped AFPPD would be able to engage in the health and immigration issues Bangladesh is facing in supporting the Rohingya refugees.

#### (7) Bhutan

H.E. Mr. Zigme Zangpo, Speaker of the Lower House of the National Assembly, congratulated the new members of the AFPPD and thanked the Sri Lankan government for hosting the General Assembly. He reported that the National Assembly was first formed in 1953, when the King of Bhutan decided that a democratic constitutional monarchy should be established. The first National Assembly election was held in 2008, and the second was in 2013. The third election will happen in 2018. Since participating in the AFPPD, the National Assembly has constituted an ad hoc Sustainable Development Committee. H.E. Mr. Zangpo reported that the committee plans to form a task force to harmonize laws, and will have oversight functions with the Public Accounts Committee, Women and Children and Youth Committee, and Social and Culture Committee. He also shared that the committee has promoted a Domestic Violence Act, Narcotic Act, an Act on the reduction of alcohol consumption, and an act on reducing tobacco use. The Social and Cultural Committee has also promoted having at least one item related to ageing on the parliament's agenda. The Children's Committee has developed a plan to fortify food served in 120 schools while the Nutrition Department of Health Ministry will establish the necessary guidelines. The Committee is also seeking to have 2% of tax revenues go toward the Ministry of Health. The Committee has a 5-year strategic development plan for all these sustainable development issues, and has also engaged with CSOs and the media, as well as large international organizations and forums including the IPU, APA, AIPA, AFPPD, SAARC, and EU.

#### (8) India

Hon. Mr. Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu (MP India) reported that the National Committee has identified providing social security for older persons as one of its main priorities, because 100 million members of the population are over 60 years old. He briefly touched on the challenges of child and maternal health as well as vaccination programmes in such a large population. Due in part to international forums on population and development, the focus on population and development issues in India is growing. He also recommended that AFPPD continue to identify and recommend key SDGs as policy and reform focal points for national committees.

Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary of IAPPD, noted that the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD) was established in 1978, and since then has been doing work at the parliamentary level, the state level, the district level, and the grass roots level. He reported that the IAPPD works on taking the messages from the AFPPD down to the grass roots levels, where they have found people are enthusiastic and enjoy learning about population and development issues. He noted some of the goals of the IAPPD in facilitating better legislation, better allocation of resources, and better implementation toward population and development issues, and reported that IAPPD hopes AFPPD will organize a workshop on measurable indicators for sensitization activities, as well as a workshop for arranging financial resources to fund these activities.

#### (9) Iran

Hon. Dr. Abdolreza Azizi (MP Islamic Republic of Iran) reported that the Social Commission of Parliament in Iran has supported laws on population and sustainable development that are consistent with the objectives and missions of AFPPD. First, he reported that the Commission has activities and efforts for reducing VAW, including health and secure housing for vulnerable women and girls. He also reported that Iran has 31 government centres and eight non-government organization (NGO)-sponsored centres providing free services for women, and some of these centres are open 24 hours a day. Overall, he noted 36 governmental programmes and 45 NGO-sponsored support programmes for women. Secondly, Hon. Dr. Azizi reported that Iran has a centre for the organization and promotion of health and against child labour. Iran has initiated action and programmes to improve the status of all people. He noted that the government has intervened in over 3000 elder abuse cases, and Iran is engaged in experience and knowledge transfer, particularly in promoting health. He reported that the life expectancy for women in Iran is 76 years, and for men is 74 years, and eradicating poverty and violence remain national priorities. He also expressed his grave concern over the Rohingya crisis and urged all members of the General Assembly to consider how they can act together to help end the atrocities.

#### (10) Nepal

Hon. Mrs. Upadhyay reported that the National Forum of Parliamentarians for Population and Development (NFPPD) Nepal is guided by the ICPD, and follows closely the priorities and recommendations of the AFPPD. Hon. Mrs. Upadhyay reported that the NFPPD, in line with national population dynamics and AFPPD strategic plan, has created four sub-committees, including elderly welfare, women, youth, and local development, and UNFPA is the main partner of NFPPD in Nepal. Hon. Mrs. Upadhyay reported that the NFPPD works to make changes to laws based on population research and evidence, and the NFPPD hosted the AFPPD conference where Kathmandu declaration was adopted. In fact, Hon. Mrs. Upadhyay reported that Nepal has committed to end child marriage by 2030, and the minimum age for marriage is now 20 for both sexes. The NFPPD has been instrumental in lobbying on this issue and monitored the areas most affected by child marriage. The NFPPD's work mainly focuses on SDGs 3 and 5, and it has also prepared four policy briefs on the four sub-committee focus areas. Hon. Mrs. Upadhyay also noted that 400 parliamentarians participated in many sensitization activities on child marriage, the SDGs, and other topics. Their activities have resulted in outcomes at the policymaking and implementation levels. However, Hon. Mrs. Upadhyay noted that sustainability of these efforts will most likely require continued UN agency support.

#### (11) Pakistan

Hon. Ms. Farhana Qamar (MP Pakistan) reported that Pakistan continues to make improvements in gender equality, and she noted a need to focus on women's disadvantaged position in the society. Hon. Ms. Qamar noted that democracy needs women in order to be truly democratic, and education plays a key role in promoting harmony and understanding between various sectors of society. Hon. Ms. Qamar noted that, in order to promote peace, there is a need to educate girls in particular. She also noted the importance of investing in youth through providing small business loans for youth and facilitating government-sponsored information technology internships.

Hon. Ms. Qamar reported that Pakistan is making inroads toward empowering women, and has one of the largest social security schemes for women below the poverty line, named in honour of Benazir Bhutto. Hon. Ms. Qamar also reported on efforts at the provincial and district levels seeking to protect women from violence, and the national parliament is also working on an anti-VAW act, an anti-harassment act, a national reproductive health act, and many other initiatives to protect and advance the rights of women, highlighting the fact that women are at the centre of the sustainable development agenda. Hon. Ms. Qamar also noted that women parliamentarians have played a key role in these efforts. However, she noted that only 9% of peace negotiators at a global level are women, and this must be addressed.

#### (12) Sri Lanka

Hon. Mr. Dissanayake, reported that he serves as the Minister of Social Empowerment in Sri Lanka, where he focuses on the empowerment of all citizens of the country, including low-income people, youth, the elderly, the disabled, and others. He reported that the Ministry works with more than 30,000 government officials and 60,000 volunteers to achieve its goals. He reported that, in order to empower women in politics and decision making, Sri Lanka has allocated 25% of seats in provincial and local councils to women. He also noted that Sri Lanka has doubled its health expenditures in the past two years, increased university student enrolment, and increased vocational training availability as well. Hon. Mr. Dissanayake also noted that the Ministry focuses on training village-level people through self-employment programmes, and the Sri Lankan education system gives 100% free education to all up through the university level. Furthermore, the private education system in Sri Lanka is open to students from all Asian countries. However, he noted that challenges still remain. Around 1.4 million low-income Sri Lankans need assistance. To address their needs, Hon. Mr. Dissanayake noted that they are working on an income development project to give low-income individuals access to capital. He also reported that around 600,000 Sri Lankans are receiving a pension, and around 1.1 million people actually have enough income to survive. He noted that only 10,000 elderly people are living in elderly homes, with 2,000 in private elder homes and 8,000 in state-sponsored homes. Next year, the Ministry plans to start around 1,700 day-care centres for elders.

#### **Chairperson's wrap-up**

Hon. Ms. Sudmalis noted the passion of the speakers about their achievements and goals. She also reiterated the set-backs faced by the Global Gag Rule. She recognized that many countries have instituted minimum marriage age laws and family violence laws, and also noted that all our nations are interconnected and rely on each other. In particular, she looked toward programmes to improve education, work opportunities, political mentorship, universal education, and health services worldwide.

## National committees reporting session (2)

### Strategic outcome 1: National capacity building

- *Session Co-Chairpersons:* Hon. Dr. Wang Longde, MP China; Hon. Rep. Teodoro “Teddy” Baguilat, Jr., MP Philippines; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD

#### (13) Kazakhstan

Hon. Mr. Shavkhat Utemissov (MP Kazakhstan) opened his report by thanking the AFPPD and SLPPD for organizing the event. He introduced the Social Council of the Majilis of Kazakhstan as the platform for dialogue on critical and urgent questions to be raised in population and development. He reported that the Council has 26 deputies from the lower chamber of the parliament, emphasizing issues related to the SDGs. In fact, he noted that Kazakhstan achieved many of the MDG indicators ahead of time, and the Council is now undergoing national capacity building efforts to achieve the SDGs. In the past two years, the Social Council has supported the adoption of three different laws, and has developed priorities for 2016–2017.

Hon. Mr. Utemissov also reported that the national government in Kazakhstan collaborates with state bodies and NGOs, as well as the private sector, and has many openings for women in management positions. He also reported that the Social Council recently developed a short report on its fundamental achievements, and noted that women’s participation in politics is critical for the achievement of gender equality. In fact, he noted that in Kazakhstan, women’s participation in parliament has doubled in the past 10 years. The World Economic Forum’s Gender Gap Report recognized that the participation of women in Kazakhstan grew and was in the top 50 of countries. Hon. Mr. Utemissov also noted that the Council supports investing in youth through promoting youth employment and supporting youth initiatives, as well as promoting family values. He reported that the Bolashak Program provides youth with an opportunity to use state resources to get an education overseas and then brings them back to the country afterwards to participate in the growing national economy.

#### (14) Kyrgyzstan

Hon. Mr. Abdimukhtar Mamatov (MP Kyrgyzstan) reported that Kyrgyzstan is working to protect women, youth, and elderly people and is developing strategic ways of tackling these issues. He reported that various bodies of parliament, committees, and NGOs need to be involved in addressing these issues. Hon. Mr. Mamatov also reported that Kyrgyzstan’s parliament is reviewing issues of longevity and healthcare and will review the healthcare system for potential reform. Kyrgyzstan has also adopted a law to protect women’s rights and gender equality, and is reviewing issues of family planning. In 2016, a new law was also adopted to prevent forced marriages. Hon. Mr. Mamatov reported that the work plan for the National Committee for 2018–2019 is to increase advocacy efforts and develop new strategies for reproductive health issues. He also reported that the Committee is looking to achieve a higher number of women in parliament, to support vulnerable individuals in poverty, and to improve nutritional outcomes, and looking for additional funding mechanisms to support their efforts in these different sectors.

#### (15) Tajikistan

Hon. Mrs. Lutfiya Rajabova (MP Tajikistan) reported that Tajikistan’s parliament and the AFPPD have a strong relationship. She noted that, in its more than 20 years of existence, the ICPD has encouraged members to prioritize population and development issues, and is complemented by the SDGs. Hon. Mrs. Rajabova reported that Tajikistan did sign on to the SDGs and is dedicated to achieving the 2030 Agenda. She also reported that Tajikistan has adopted a strategy for national development by 2030, which was in part informed by the impact of the global financial crisis, and is based on international commitments Tajikistan has made. Hon. Mrs. Rajabova noted that environmental issues will be critical to the achievement of this agenda.

Hon. Mrs. Rajabova reported that Tajikistan has adopted a comprehensive healthcare code to take the place of a number of other scattered regulations. She reported that marriage and the rights of mothers and children are protected by the constitution, which has led to the adoption of new provisions on child adoption. The year 2017 was also declared the Year of Youth in Tajikistan. She noted that Tajikistan also recognizes the importance of promoting the role of women in the society, and she noted that women's role in banking, media, and local government continues to grow. She reported that Tajikistan has signed the Beijing Declaration and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which are informing some key policy documents, such as a national strategy for women's participation by 2020, a national programme on family violence, and a programme to eliminate of all forms of child labour, 2015–2020.

#### (16) China

Hon Dr. Wang Longde reported that China has experienced advances in public health and basic medical care as efforts have been made to provide free immunizations, control chronic diseases, and address mental health issues. Hon. Dr. Wang reported that China has laws on infectious diseases, infant diseases, and public health. He also shared that basic public education in China will ensure all children will have equal rights to education. China does provide for nine years of free compulsory education to all children, with free accommodation for rural students at boarding schools, and additional financial support for students whose parents have trouble supporting the education of their children. The state also provides school children with nutritious food, and secondary vocational education for poor rural students. Hon. Dr. Wang reported that high school enrolment in China is supported by the law on education, the law on higher education, and various social insurance systems. For medical insurance, he reported that rural cooperative insurance programs serve China's rural population, although it is important for people with disabilities to also access services. Hon. Dr. Wang noted China still faces challenges with insufficient resources for public health services, and seeks to reduce gaps between underdeveloped and more developed regions of the country, and they are looking to promote cooperation among Asian countries in this regard.

#### (17) Japan

Mr. Farrukh Usmanov reported on behalf of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), which has been working to address explosive population growth in the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He reported that in 1973, MPs went on a study tour to understand how to manage population growth, and in 1974, that group of Japanese MPs formed the JPFP, which was the first non-partisan parliamentarian group addressing population issues. The JPFP collaborated with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and other groups to promote exchanges among parliamentary groups, study tours, and international conferences to achieve better policies toward population and development issues. He reported that JPFP makes policy recommendations to a number of ministries, and one of their main activities is food security. He also noted that the JPFP is concerned with active ageing given the population dynamics of Japan. Following the ICPD agenda, Mr. Usmanov reported that the JPFP has maintained its high-level support for many related international conferences and agreements. He also reported that the JPFP sends parliamentarians on numerous study tours to project sites in order to observe best practices and make recommendations to improve various programmes and government policies. This year, the importance of investing in youth and active ageing has been recognized by the JPFP, and meetings on youth were held in Jordan and India.

#### (18) Cambodia

Hon. Mrs. Lork Kheng (MP Cambodia) reported that the Cambodian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD) seeks to actively work to achieve the SDGs. She reported that the CAPPD focuses on advocacy and awareness-raising with government officials toward women's empowerment, youth issues, social welfare, and other related topics. In light of these efforts, MPs have approved budget increases for women's affairs, education, and other youth activities. She reported that the CAPPD has also worked with ministries and local



authorities to ensure law enforcement is in place, taking relevant challenges into account where necessary. The CAPPD has also engaged young parliamentarians and facilitated the launching of a roundtable discussion among parliamentarians on gender-responsive budgeting and other gender issues. The CAPPD seeks to network with development partners and line ministries to be able to follow through with the political commitments of the Global Conference of Parliamentarians for Population and Development (GCPPD), and other international agreements related to gender equality and women's empowerment in particular, and seeks to continue collaborating with NGOs in these efforts.

Hon. Mrs. Kheng reported that youth have been engaged in a forum on education and sports, and local women have been engaged in home care for elderly members of the society. She also reported that elderly persons' associations have been established in some districts, and association members have been trained in first aid so that they can help one another in case of emergencies. Hon. Mrs. Kheng reported that the CAPPD has invited youth to participate in policy debates in order to learn how parliament functions, and supports women with uterine cancer and women's health issues. She also reported that, after the 2018 election, the CAPPD plans to improve the healthcare of the elderly, women, and children and will launch a website. The CAPPD plans to continue engaging youth in social activities and promoting education for all, and is looking toward collaboration with other stakeholders to promote economic empowerment for all.

#### (19) Indonesia

Hon. Mr. Marinus Gea (MP Indonesia) reported that the National Family Planning Board in Indonesia has focused on the prevention of early marriage, and increasing youth access to information concerning their health, social well-being and education. The National Committee also supported the Commission on Child Protection, National Narcotics Board and the Ministry of Human Rights and Justice in the development and implementation of a National Strategy on Child Protection. The National Committee prioritizes the involvement of local people in policy making and implementation, and encourages local participation, particularly through community and religious leaders.

#### (20) Lao People's Democratic Republic

Hon. Mr. Alounxai Sounnalath (MP Lao People's Democratic Republic) noted that youth make up over 50% of the population in Lao, and annual population growth will continue at a rate of approximately 2% over the next 30 years while the ageing population continues to grow as well. He also noted that the Lao People's Democratic Republic has developed 18 SDGs on the national level (particularly related to clearing land of and educating the public on unexploded ordinances or UXOs), and is currently in its 8<sup>th</sup> 5-Year Development Plan for 2016–2020. Hon. Mr. Sounnalath reported that Lao intends to leave least-developed country status by 2020 under this plan. He also reported that education spending and skills development is planned to account for 16.6% of GDP, and 6.8% of GDP has been allocated to public health expenditures in 2017. Hon. Mr. Sounnalath noted that both the National Assembly and LAPPD prioritize meeting with local people to communicate development goals with the population.

Hon. Mr. Sounnalath noted that some of the challenges faced by the LAPPD and parliament include limited resources for data collection, general funding constraints, and a lack of understanding about translating national goals and SDGs to local levels. He thanked the AFPPD for co-organizing a national parliamentarians workshop in Vientiane in May 2017, noting that the first SDG implementation report will be prepared for 2018, identify and communicate priority SDGs on local levels, and conduct the mid-term evaluation for the 8<sup>th</sup> 5-Year Plan where all targets will be reviewed and budget needs will be assessed.

## (21) Philippines

Hon. Rep. Teddy Baguilat (MP Philippines) reported that the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) is one of the oldest population and development organizations in the region, with 77 legislators participating from the lower house, including 33 women, and 10 senators participating. Hon. Rep. Baguilat reported that in 2012, the Philippines passed a reproductive health law, against strong Catholic Church opposition, and the Supreme Court is currently scheduling hearings about whether contraceptives are abortifacient. However, he reported that, for the past two years, the PLCPD has pushed for the enforcement of the Reproductive Health Law, and is also promoting a Scaling Up Nutrition Bill which will provide support for needy children, as well as a bill to expand maternity leave to 100 days.

In line with SDG 3, Hon. Rep. Baguilat reported that the PLCPD is also supporting a bill on preventing teenage pregnancy and is encouraging adoption of a new HIV/AIDS law given the high rates for new infections in the Philippines. These laws would support minors' access to sexual and reproductive health services, but we anticipate all provisions seeking to provide minors access to these rights will get opposition, because provisions seeking to provide reproductive health services to minors was struck down under the Reproductive Health Law. The PLCPD also seeks to prevent recruitment of children into armed conflict, and is supporting the adoption of a divorce law. Hon. Rep. Baguilat reported that the Philippines has a national mental health law, and just passed an anti-discrimination law based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The PLCPD is preparing for the sunset review of the Reproductive Health Law, and is seeking to increase the budgetary support for implementation of the law. The PLCPD also convenes a child rights network and has held workshops on early and forced marriage and online commercial sexual exploitation. He noted that the Committee has not yet focused on active ageing, but looks forward to sharing of best practices on ageing so that the Philippines is prepared for population ageing.

## (22) Thailand

Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont (MP Thailand) reported that Thailand just adopted a new constitution and is now drafting the organic laws related to the constitution. The parliament in Thailand established a Standing Committee on Public Health, which includes population and development topics. The Committee invited Dr. Marumoto and Hon. Professor Takemi to attend and speak to the Committee. Hon. Dr. Sirathranont also noted that the Committee has supported the law on adolescent pregnancy, and the main aim of the bill is to provide comprehensive sexuality education across the country and ensure young women can complete their own schooling after they give birth. Hon. Dr. Sirathranont furthermore noted that the Committee has supported a fortified formula bill for promoting health and nutrition of children, and seeks to address health issues of the elderly population, and the Committee has set up a sub-committee on the elderly to take responsibility for these issues. Hon. Dr. Sirathranont reported that Thailand has achieved UHC and considers maintaining it a core priority of government.

## (23) Timor-Leste

Ms. Lina Fatima Baptista reported that Timor-Leste is a new country, and faces major challenges in addressing VAW and other forms of oppression of women. She also noted that violence against children, sexual exploitation, and other problems face the nation's development as well. She reported that in the period of 2015–2017, women parliamentarians had ensured commemoration of important days for women. However, she noted that the country lacks infrastructure for water, electricity, and other basic needs. She also noted that women in Timor-Leste have the most difficulty accessing education and other basic services, and many members of the population lack road access and cannot access services and infrastructure due to lack of access. In 2016–2017, women MPs carried out societal advocacy and activities and gender-sensitive budgeting.

## (24) Vietnam

Hon. Mr. Dinh Cong Sy (MP Vietnam) noted the National Committee's main achievements on population and development included an assessment of gender equity mainstreaming in about 30 draft laws. The Committee also supervised government activities at various levels from, central to grassroots, and focused its budgeting work on youth issues and healthcare. The Committee also held many workshops and meetings to further advocacy goals, and staff capacity building remains a major priority in the parliament of Vietnam.

Hon. Mr. Sy reported that the Committee maintains close relationships with United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and other international organizations, and seeks to reflect all commitments made at AFPPD conferences in national legislation. One major achievement in this regard includes increasing the number of female MPs up to 26.7%, which is a 2.6% increase from the previous term. He also noted that achievements in healthcare are increased advocacy and recommendations to the government to increase availability at grassroots level for reproductive health services for youth. The Committee is also looking toward the review of the Law on the Elderly, and a comprehensive population law is set for adoption in 2018. The National Assembly established the Young Parliamentarians Group in 2016, and currently has 127/500 parliamentarians under 45 years old. In the coming months, the Committee will be supporting the assessment of the bill on population, working to continue integrating gender equality into draft laws, and supervising the implementation of population and healthcare policies, including healthcare for the elderly. Hon. Mr. Sy noted that they hope to see AFPPD continue being a bridge and support for parliamentarians, especially in developing their skills and resources through projects like the briefing cards.

### **Chairperson's wrap-up**

Hon. Dr. Longde noted that he learned a lot from the reports made by National Committee representatives in the session, and recognized that these national achievements show the significance of the Forum. He also noted that many countries face challenges to promote and realize relevant targets, so efforts should be made to enhance cooperation and interaction between parliaments and governments. He emphasized that health and health equity should be pursued, and for that, cooperation between public and private health institutions should be further strengthened to create a healthy environment for all citizens.

### **Memorandum of understanding signature ceremony**

Dr. Mika Marumoto informed participants that the AFPPD has agreed to sign memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with both Plan International and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to strengthen strategic partnerships as well as the capacity of the next Standing Committees on Investing in Youth and on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. She first invited Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand and Secretary General of AFPPD and Ms. Senait Gebregziabher Bayessa, Regional Director of Plan International to sign the first MOU.



*Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand and AFPPD Secretary-General and Ms. Senait Gebregziabher Bayessa, Regional Director, Plan International signed a memorandum of agreement strengthening AFPPD's strategic partnership with Plan International.*

Ms. Senait Gebregziabher Bayessa then explained that Plan International is present in 14 Asian countries, and that this MOU would target gender inequality and the violation of child rights in the region. She also noted that it would address women worker's rights, violence against women and girls, and youth economic development. Plan International and AFPPD have also launched a research project looking at the prevalence rates and best practices in Asia, and invited other organizations such as UNFPA, World Bank and UNESCO to participate.

Dr. Mika Marumoto reminded participants that AFPPD had a successful Child Marriage and Human Trafficking Conference, and wants to continue promoting a zero-tolerance policy to these issues by strengthening its relationship with Plan International and other technical partners.



*Mr. Kabir Singh, Senior Project Officer for HIV Health and Wellbeing Team, UNESCO Bangkok, highlighted the importance of partnership with AFPPD in terms of raising awareness and clarifying misconceptions surrounding CSE to encourage political support. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, MP Australia and Vice-Chairperson of AFPPD, signed the memorandum with him.*

Dr. Marumoto then invited Mr. Kabir Singh, Senior Project Officer for HIV Health and Wellbeing Team of UNESCO Bangkok and Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, MP Australia and Vice-Chairperson of AFPPD for the second MOU. She also reminded participants that all MPs at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee of Investing in Youth in Bishkek confirmed the importance of investing in youth and addressing youth substance abuse, where UNESCO's expansive agenda will be beneficial.

Mr. Kabir Singh justified the importance of CSE in the development and protection of children and young persons, noting that it empowers self-decision-making in relationships and empowers education on HIV, STIs and gender-based violence. He also identified that many countries are acknowledging its importance in a context where sexually explicit material is easily accessible online or other media. He mentioned that increasing political commitment and participation on these issues will scale up existing multisectoral programs, and the Asia-Pacific region has shown a majority favorable policy environment for CSE implementation.

Recalling the 2013 Asian and Pacific Population Conference (APPC) Ministerial Declaration, by which AFPPD members also committed to ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all, Mr. Singh highlighted the synergy between AFPPD and UNESCO's strategic frameworks on health and wellbeing. His expectations for the MOU was to help AFPPD in raising awareness and clarifying misconceptions surrounding CSE to encourage political support.



## Partners session

### Strategic outcome 2: Strategic partnership building

- *Session Co-Chairpersons:* Hon. Mrs. Sudarshani Fernandopulle, MP, State Minister of City Planning and Water Supply; Member of AFPPD Standing Committee on Youth; SLPPD Member, and Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director, AFPPD

Hon. Mrs. Sudarshani Fernandopulle requested the panellists to take this opportunity to reflect, and focus on AFPPD's three strategic priority issues in their remarks to the General Assembly, hoping that panellists would share outcomes and good practices with the group.

Dr. Marumoto added that panellists would be reflecting on joint activities and strengthening partnerships.



*Included in the panel were (from left to right): Dr Mika Marumoto, AFPPD Executive Director; Hon. Mrs. Sudarshani Fernandopulle, MP Sri Lanka; Dr. Lynda Sirigoi-Kami, President, Women Doctors Association, Papua New Guinea; Ms. Tracy Huang, Associate Director, C&M International; Dr. Eduardo Klien, Regional Director, HelpAge International Asia Pacific Regional Office; Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Director General, South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children; Associate Professor Wako Asato, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University; and Mr. Bjoern Andersson, Regional Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia Pacific Regional Office. (Photo: AFPPD)*

### Women's empowerment and gender equality

- Ms. Tracy Huang, Associate Director, C&M International

Ms. Tracy Huang introduced the Healthy Women, Healthy Economies (HWHE) initiative, noting the connection between better health outcomes for women and girls leading to better economic participation. She emphasized that promoting women's health and economic participation required a whole-of-government approach which is cross-cutting, and HWHE works to bring together best practices and looks to connect partners with resources to achieve their goals. She also shared that HWHE's five priority areas are sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, workplace health access, health access and awareness, and work-life balance. She reported that women are twice as likely as men to get bone and muscle diseases due to standing. Women are also 6-10 times more likely to get thyroid diseases. These are just a few examples of the women-specific health issues governments should address in considering the link between women's health and women's economic participation.

- Dr. Lynda Sirigoi-Kami, President, Women Doctors Association, Papua New Guinea, representing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Healthy Women Healthy Economies

Dr. Lynda Sirigoi-Kami reported that the HWHE toolkit is being implemented in Papua New Guinea, and she was personally involved in the development of the toolkit in 2015. She noted that the HWHE toolkit aligned with the Women Doctors Association's vision as well. Dr. Sirigoi-Kami urged parliamentarians that, while women's health is often limited to just sexual and reproductive health and maternal health, women's health should be seen as a holistic field. She emphasized that the HWHE toolkit was meant to bring the public and private sectors together and have an integrated approach to women's health and economic participation, but the challenge is greater in the public sector in navigating bureaucracies and government constraints. On the private sector side, a business coalition for women in Papua New Guinea is being supported by the World Bank, and the coalition has a policy on sexual and family violence being piloted by companies to address workplace issues related to domestic violence. Dr. Sirigoi-Kami warned that women were missing work because of domestic violence, and they were not reporting the violence, which was costing companies up to 10% of their payroll. This policy initiative on sexual and family violence provides help and counselling to the women suffering domestic violence in order to mitigate the negative ramifications of the violence on the women and their employers.

Dr. Marumoto thanked the participants for their presentations and asked them if they had specific best practices to share with the group.

Ms. Huang pointed participants to the HWHE webpage, which includes a list of best practices, as well as the monitoring and evaluation framework, of which she brought copies to share with participants. She also reported that the Philippines took the toolkit and went to 12 companies, both large and mid-sized, and created benchmarks with these companies to improve outcomes. The partners in the Philippines also went to 30 government agencies and hospitals to identify the issues that needed to be addressed at the governmental level. Based on this benchmarking, legislative and policy priorities and changes were identified and pursued.

Dr. Sirigoi-Kami called for an integrated, cross-forum approach to the issue of women's health and economic participation, and for opportunities to share issues and tools across projects and countries to improve women's health in the region.

### **Active ageing**

- Dr. Eduardo Klien, HelpAge International, Regional Director of Asia and the Pacific

Dr. Eduardo Klien commended the AFPPD for being a major part of addressing population ageing in the region, and together with HelpAge. Together, he emphasized that AFPPD and HelpAge have been gradually changing the narrative of population ageing. Dr. Klien noted the trends in ageing issues, where initially we began by asking whether to focus only on vulnerable older persons, or all older persons. Next, the focus moved to asking whether to consider only today's older people, or also tomorrow's older people. The focus later moved to whether to address only personal biological ageing, or population ageing and ageing societies. In the first phase, the focus was primarily on vulnerable older persons, with programmes such as social safety nets and homes for the ageing. He noted that, as time went on, the population of vulnerable older people grew, but we also began to think about all older people and the well-being of all elders, not just vulnerable older persons. As the population of older persons began to grow overall, the focus shifted toward thinking about future older people. At this stage, Dr. Klien noted that advocacy for policies on ageing focuses on health, long-term care, income security, and preparing for old age. He noted that the future of the ageing field is now focusing on population ageing and older people, addressing the implications of population ageing for society. Iran and China face large percentages of older persons in the population, so there is a need to understand the social and economic aspects of population ageing in our region. He noted that AFPPD has been a major part of understanding this broadening of population ageing.



## Investing in youth

Hon. Ms. Fernandopulle introduced the panellist who would be speaking on investing in youth and asked them to highlight any achievements made in light of the AFPPD trafficking and child marriage conferences.

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

Dr. Rinchen Chopel recognized the importance of empowering women and girls, but urged participants to ensure that these efforts do not leave behind men and boys. He reported that SAIEVAC is more of a movement than an organization, responding to the call of governments in the region to address violence against children. From 2012 until today, Dr. Chopel reported that AFPPD and SAIEVAC have participated in small and large meetings together, including a regional action plan to end child marriage in South Asia. From December 2012 until August 2014, he reported that SAIEVAC held a number of bilateral discussions and expert meetings, and in its governing board meeting in Dhaka, a Regional Action Plan on Ending Child Marriage was also concluded at the National Conference to Follow-up on Regional Action Plan to Combat Child Marriage. While SAIEVAC only recently signed the MOU with AFPPD, the Regional Action Plan on Ending Child Marriage in South Asia is one of the outcomes of the partnership between AFPPD and SAIEVAC. He also noted that SAIEVAC helped to negotiate the Kathmandu Call for Action to get accountability in implementing the Regional Action Plan, and in 2016, SAIEVAC developed a paragraph to be included in the next SAARC Summit Declaration, which Dr. Chopel brought to Pakistan in advance of the Summit in hopes of seeing it included in the declaration.

Regarding trafficking, Dr. Chopel reported that at the AFPPD conference on trafficking in March of this year, the declaration that was adopted gave partners like SAIEVAC a framework to work for implementing its strategy against child trafficking and child labour. The declaration from the trafficking conference was also referenced the Regional Expert Group Meeting to Review and Refine the Draft Regional Strategy on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Including Online Safety as inspiration on how to develop a regional framework for ending commercial sexual exploitation.

Dr. Klein noted that HelpAge is planning a joint event with AFPPD in Chiang Mai in December, along with the East-West Centre in Hawaii, to address the importance of including data in policy making. He noted that the use of data in policy would provide clear ways of analyzing gaps in different stages of life and intergenerational transfers. AFPPD's participation is key in this event, as they can invite different parliamentarians to attend. In 2018, Dr. Klein reported that a conference on population and development will be likely held in Tehran, with a focus on inclusion in the context of ageing. Dr. Klein noted that this would be a unique opportunity to link academics, policymakers, governments, and civil society, because adapting to population ageing concerns everyone, and collaborative action can truly bring about change.

Dr. Chopel noted that every country has three arms of the government that policymakers and partners must be concerned with. He noted that, while the focus is often on legislative and policy gaps, the expectation is that the judiciary will provide justice. However, it can actually be difficult to figure out which branch and which actors are actually responsible for bringing justice for children—whether it is the judiciary which applies the laws, or the parliament, which puts in place laws and policies to protect children. Because of this experience, Dr. Chopel noted that bringing the different arms of government into a common dialogue will be extremely important in making and ensuring needed changes for the protection and treatment of children. In line with these aims, Dr. Chopel is working to lobby at a Chief Justices platform in Colombo with the hope of bringing together all the key leaders of the three branches of government in South Asia to make change for children. The Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan, for example, could be a key actor in the regional movement to end violence against children.

## **Overarching topics: Migration and women, youth, and older persons**

Mika: Could you elaborate on long-term care and migration issues you have worked on, which were also kindly shared and presented to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee on Active Ageing in Hanoi?

- Associate Professor Wako Asato, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University

Associate Professor Wako Asato discussed some of the particular characteristics of Asian familialistic elderly care and migration. He noted that, for example, women are often recruited into being domestic workers overseas. While many Asian families believe that the family should take the main role in elderly care, Associate Professor Asato noted that the community, the state, and markets can also provide elderly care. He added that elderly care puts a greater pressure on women to care for ageing family members, and urbanization also causes difficulty in elderly care because older parents can become isolated when brought to urban areas for care. He noted that more healthcare options and services will be needed to provide chronic disease care and dementia care, which can go beyond the capacity of family caregivers. Professor Asato also reported that family providers may not be confident in their care skills, and some older persons can even be subject to abuse by caregivers. He also noted the increasing number of single or lone elderly persons without family members. At the same time, in Japan, over 100,000 people end up quitting their jobs to take care of older family members, so it will be important to look to the state and the market to intervene to fill these care gaps.

- Mr. Bjorn Andersson, Regional Director, Asia-Pacific Regional Office, UNFPA

Mr. Bjorn Andersson recalled that UN Member States have adopted the SDGs as a broad, holistic agenda that concerns social, economic, and environmental development. He noted that this agenda builds on many of the progressive conferences of the 1990s held in Beijing, Rio, and Cairo, and all of these conference declarations, as well as the SDGs, can only be implemented successfully through a whole-of-government approach. He noted that parliamentarians can take the decisions to make an enabling environment for implementation of sexual and reproductive rights, the rights of young persons, and the protection of the rights of older persons, and UNFPA has been working to support the development of an enabling context to achieve these recommendations of the international conferences. Targeting specific campaigns and issues can be achieved through forums and national-level work, and with the help of Parliamentarians, we can actually bring about sustainable development – economic, social, and environmental. However, Mr. Andersson noted that this must be done at the national and global levels. He encouraged participants and partners to share best practices, and cooperate through the many strategic partnerships AFPPD is building.

Dr. Marumoto asked the panellists whether they had any points to add about facilitating strategic partnerships.

Associate Professor Asato added that study tours to institutional care homes in Japan could be useful, but other countries may face different conditions that make adoption of the Japanese model difficult. However, he noted that looking at the continuum of care and institution-to-home pathways in Japan, integrated care models could be applicable in other countries and contexts. Associate Professor Asato noted the need to consider how to develop professionalized elder care and look at human resource development in this area.

Mr. Andersson noted that UNFPA has always faced resource challenges when working on sexual and reproductive health issues, and in linking the big picture goals into actual actions and policies on the national level. He noted that the sensitivity of SRH issues means that partnership is needed to achieve changes. He also noted that it is difficult to mobilize resources for UNFPA because there is a need to show that funding actually makes changes in people's lives on the national level. Showing the outcomes of investments in women's health and in young people is key for achieving SDGs, and for the well-being of individuals. While Mr. Andersson noted that the concept of partnerships is strong, the evidence base needs to be built to move from the big picture to the

country level in order to keep funding streams moving toward actual needs and impacts. When partner countries speak up by showing the impact of UNFPA projects, this has been helpful in mobilizing funding.

### **Questions and answers**

H.E. Mr. Zangpo (Bhutan) noted the importance of sensitizing people to work on population and development issues. He recognized that parliamentarians take back home these messages, and in particular, institutionalizing older persons can be a sensitive issue in Asian countries. He noted that some of the institutions that are meant to provide care for older persons are not comfortable or welcoming to residents, and those who can pay more get access to better facilities. Secondly, he noted that because of unemployment, our countries are often encouraging citizens to work abroad, and when people come back, they have difficulty reintegrating. He also noted the need for capacity-building on analysis of data to help make evidence-based policies.

Associate Professor Asato responded to H.E. Mr. Zangpo's remarks by noting that some of the small-scale homes for older persons can be less "institutional," and can be in-between facilities for integrating formal and informal care. He also noted that ageing societies deal with a lot of diversity of ages, migrant workers, and other related issues. However, Associate Professor Asato encouraged participants to think about being open to diversity in the concept of ageing. Also, he noted that training for migrant care workers can be helpful because the vulnerability of the migrant population is high. In fact, he noted that Taiwan considers longer term migrant workers to be highly skilled, and that they could actually provide elderly care once they return back home. Japan provides language support to migrant workers, and the Republic of Korea tries to eliminate recruitment costs so migrant workers are not in debt.

Mr. Andersson responded to H.E. Mr. Zangpo's remarks on evidence-based policy-making, noting that when the information and data is available, it is much easier to make the right policy decisions. He looked to the new round of censuses coming up in 2020 as a way to get some of the needed demographic information to make good policies.

Hon. Dr. Haque (Bangladesh) noted that taking care of older persons is problematic in countries like Bangladesh because of concerns with housing, healthcare, and other issues. He asked for comments on how to take care of the more specialized medical needs of older persons.

Dr. Klein responded that some of the specialized healthcare issues are a matter of the workforce. For example, Japan has its own issues with worker shortages, and the Philippines and Bangladesh have many workers overseas who send remittances back home. Dr. Klein noted that these situations also shape younger populations and can create tensions on families. In some countries in the region, Dr. Klein elaborated that the family still takes care of older members, but while the key bond of love is still present, it expresses itself differently now. For example, he shared that China only has 3% of older persons in institutions, but still has major human resource needs for elderly care. Dr. Klein further commented that chronic illnesses come with ageing, and do not actually get cured, but managed. He called for participants to think about facilitating active ageing before members of the population are actually old.

Hon. Mr. Rapolu (India) recognized major gaps and inequalities in our communities, and emphasized the need to look at the role of economic growth and government intervention for active ageing. However, he identified the key challenge of funding, and the need to address growing population ageing with proper government budgeting at the national level and across international forums.

Dr. Klein responded by noting that population ageing is happening in every country in Asia. Where Japan, Singapore, and the Republic of Korea are already aged societies, Thailand and China are still ageing rapidly. Other countries in the region are ageing at a slower rate and the effects of ageing will be felt in the coming 20–30 years. In some countries, the demographic dividend has passed, others are still in it, and it is yet to occur in others. He encouraged countries must invest in "software" like education, health, and adaptive societies, because investing today means you

will enjoy the return in 20–30 years as the population ages. He noted that the burden of today's legislators is to address ageing, and societies must be fair and equitable for all generations.

Hon. Dr. Azizi (Iran) noted that, in regards to population ageing, the discussion has focused mostly on medical care, and not as much on prevention. However, he noted that prevention cost 1/3 of what treatment costs, and the results go from 11% to 30%, so preventive care for women, youth, and older persons is critical. He noted that this Forum is not needed to solve the problems of countries, but to discuss with each other and exchange experiences to adapt the best practices to our own countries. He recommended that, when someone goes out of the country as a young person, they should be paying into a social security fund so that they can be saving for their old age, which will also help with their healthcare costs later life.

## Political influence session

### Strategic outcome 3: Political influence



*Included in the panel were (from left to right): H.E. Mr. Jigme Zangpo, Speaker of the Parliament of Bhutan; Hon. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Mai, MP Vietnam; Executive Committee Member, AFPPD; Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, MP Australia; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD, and Chairperson, Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (APGPD); Hon. Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat, Jr., MP Philippines, Vice Chairperson, AFPPD, and Chairperson, Philippines Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc. (PLCPD); Mr. Tangata Vainerere, Executive Director, Pacific Legislatures for Population and Governance; Hon. Mr. Osmonbek Artykbaev, MP Kyrgyzstan; and Hon. Mr. Lakshman Senevirathne, MP Sri Lanka. (Photo: AFPPD)*

- *Session Co-Chairpersons:* H.E. Mr. Jigme Zangpo, Speaker of the Parliament of Bhutan, and Hon. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Mai, MP Vietnam; Executive Committee Member, AFPPD

### **Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development Toward the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit (Tokyo, April 2016)**

- H.E. Mr. Jigme Zangpo, Speaker of the Parliament of Bhutan

H.E. Mr. Zangpo reported that the outcomes of the AFPPD resolution at the Global Conference of Parliamentarians for Population and Development were discussed at the Ise-Shima G7 Summit. He also noted that Bhutan promotes the concept of gross national happiness, and although it was deleted out of the global agenda, it came back in the form of “well-being.” He also noted that this forum has created awareness and improved the legislative process, in member countries through supporting e-governance, e-Parliamentarians, and similar initiatives, and progress has been made in many areas since the GCPPD summit in Japan.

### **11<sup>th</sup> Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference (Bangkok, November 2016)**

- Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, MP Australia; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD; Chairperson, Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (APGPD)

Hon. Ms. Sudmalis reported that 25 countries came to the Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference in Bangkok. She referred participants to the statement of commitment adopted at that conference, printed in the General Assembly conference booklet. Generally, the statement reiterated the SDGs, focused on eliminating violence against women and girls, and looked at ways of encouraging men and boys to realize they are part of supporting women. She also noted the

importance of providing women with equal access to health and education, and giving women access to financing and needed training programmes. After returning home from the conference, Hon. Ms. Sudmalis reported that she advocated for white ribbon day to show solidarity against domestic violence, especially among men.

### **Regional Parliamentarians' Conference on Combating Human Trafficking (Bangkok, March 2017)**

- Hon. Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat, Jr., MP Philippines; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD; Chairperson, Philippines Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc. (PLCPD)

Hon. Rep. Baguilat noted that Southeast Asia is the fastest growing region in the world, but the human rights record in the region is poor. For example, human trafficking in Asia is happening at an alarming rate, and estimates range at recognizing up to 30 million human trafficking victims in Asia. The ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons took effect earlier this year, which the Philippines joined after the AFPPD human trafficking conference in Bangkok. In these efforts to combat trafficking, we have learned that information management is critical. In particular, multi-media and interactive media approaches must be used. In the Philippines, the National Committee is making efforts to change the Muslim Personal Code in the region of Mindanao to better protect women and children. With AFPPD's assistance, the Committee was able to develop 3 videos, and the well-known Senator Manny Pacquiao has been championing the Law on Human Trafficking through supporting the videos. The trafficking conference also produced a statement of commitment to affirm our commitments to various international conventions related to human trafficking.

### **AFPPD-NZPPD Agenda 2030 Workshop for Pacific Parliaments on Prioritizing the ICPD Agenda in the SDGs (Wellington, September 2016)**

- Mr. Tangata Vainerere, Executive Director, Pacific Legislatures for Population and Governance

Mr. Tangata Vainerere reported that the theme of the conference in Wellington was prioritizing the ICPD Agenda in the SDGs, and this conference sought to deepen Pacific parliamentarians' knowledge on the SDGs. Mr. Vainerere noted that some parliamentarians in the region did not even know that the SDGs had been adopted, and one parliamentarian had never even heard of them. He also noted that the SDGs require partnerships with governments, private sector, civil society, and citizens, and the conference emphasized the important role that MPs can have in bringing the goals to reality. Paragraph 45 in particular shows what parliaments can do to advance the agenda, which includes enacting legislation, adopting budgets, and ensuring that reporting is effective, and implementation requires stronger parliamentary commitment than ever.

Mr. Vainerere also noted that one discussion point raised by the conference was the importance of encouraging MPs to attend important workshops and conferences. He noted that exchanging ideas and good practice models are one of the major benefits of these sessions. In the Cook Islands, the Grand Compass (Ta Kaveinga Nui) is the *National Sustainable Development Plan for 2016-2020*. At the Wellington conference, they discovered that no other country in the region yet had a plan for achieving the SDGs. The plan identifies 16 goals and 66 indicators in line with the SDGs that reflect the values and principles of the Cook Islands. The vision behind the plan is for all citizens to enjoy the highest quality of life consistent with the aspirations of our people and in harmony with our culture and environment. However, he noted that a smart implementation strategy is needed, which can double as an integrated scorecard for development, including policy statements, outputs, and resource requirements, among other elements. Mr. Vainerere shared that the Cook Islands is using the JP Knight traffic lights monitoring system to measure progress toward its goals, and this is a harmonized reporting system to be used at the national, regional, and global levels, with reporting done every 6 months for the secretariats. In 2019, he noted that the Cook Islands will be assessing forward movement toward the SDGs.

## **Central Asia Sub-Regional Parliamentarians Conference (Bishkek, June 2017)**

- Hon. Mr. Osmonbek Artykbaev, MP Kyrgyzstan

At the sub-regional conference on addressing the problems of vulnerable groups held in Bishkek earlier this year, delegates of national parliaments and representatives of other governmental and civil society groups were in attendance. At the conference, important problems and issues regarding investments in youth, gender equality and women were raised. The reports from parliamentarians in attendance informed decisions of the national committee as well, which subsequently recommended to work with youth to develop a youth plan through 2022. The Committee also noted the need to reform social and political policies, as well as healthcare, and has brought this before the government and different ministries. The Committee also partners with different bodies and would like to address the challenges faced by older persons as well.

### **SLPPD re-establishment**

- Hon. Mr. Lakshman Senevirathne, MP Sri Lanka,

At the National Committee meeting with the AFPPD, we discussed issues of older persons. The pension scheme in Sri Lanka is sound, but whereas civil servants used to retire at 55, the age has been raised to 60, and there are plans to increase the age to 65 to match rising health levels and life expectancies. The meeting also raised issues related to youth, and Sri Lanka has made significant steps to invest in formal education. In fact, 99% of Sri Lankan children are enrolled in school. Sri Lanka is planning to do more in promoting technical education for youth, and to add free education in vocational institutes. Regarding gender equality, local and provincial level achievements and challenges should be discussed. Sri Lanka used to have only 3% representation of women at these levels of government, and now the law requires 25% representation of women. Hon. Mr. Senevirathne also noted that many high positions in government are also occupied by women, and the life expectancy for women has gone up to 79 years of age. He furthermore noted that more women are entering higher education institutions as well, and a recent cabinet paper has called for expansion of child day care centres to allow more women to work outside the home. For planned activities in the future, the SLPPD is assessing discriminatory personal laws, and a pilot project on sexual and reproductive health in the Western province. He also added that Sri Lanka is the only country in the region with a Secretariat for Elders.

### **Questions and answers**

Hon. Mr. Haji Mohammad Abduh (MP Afghanistan) noted that equality of the sexes, empowerment of women, investing in youth, and active ageing are the main topics of this conference, and promoting improvements in different countries needs a good budget, enabling legislation, and security. While the message of this conference is development, different countries are facing different challenges in this regard. In some countries, the problem is economic, in others it could be the presence of contradictory laws, as well as security risks. He would like to ask for collective decisions to be made on actions taken until the next session of this conference against which to measure improvements on the national level, because reaching development on some of these issues discussed in the conference will be difficult due to various challenges being faced in different countries.

Hon. Ms. Sudmalis (Australia, Chair of the General Assembly) responded that this conference and this forum unfortunately cannot address all questions and needs of members, but she noted that Afghanistan is making incremental steps toward progress and development. She recognized that Afghanistan is at its crossroads, and getting support from other nations at conferences like these can be one of the pathways forward.

Hon. Ms. Khanam (Bangladesh) noted that parliamentarians are the representatives of the people and everything MPs do is meant to better the communities they belong to. However, these activities and advances should not be limited to people's demands only, but should also be designed to impact the whole society, various communities, and many countries. Parliamentarians must impact key development issues, and she noted that there are multiple

good examples of ways parliamentarians have broken barriers and made changes. In Bangladesh, MPs are working to eradicate child marriage by 2024, ensure compulsory education, and provide a secondary school stipend program for girls. She noted that MPs are also seeking to create skilled manpower and generate entrepreneurship opportunities for women. She noted that the number of child marriages is reducing, and maternal and child mortality is also reducing. Parliamentarians are now working under the banner of the Bangladesh Forum of Parliamentarians for Population and Development (BFPPD) to address women, children, and older people's issues. The Kishore club for all ages, a women's entrepreneurship club, and also a club for women to build up awareness of their rights have been created, and a centre to address violence against women and children has also been launched. However, Bangladesh is calling upon this forum to request assistance in addressing the Rohingya crisis. While the Bangladesh government is trying to provide emergency support, they need more help and assistance, so she asked how AFPPD could play a role in this crisis.

Hon. Ms. Kinley Om (Bhutan) noted that, in moving from the MDGs to the SDGs, many issues like quality education, raising life expectancy, and zero child mortality were raised. Now, enrolment of girls in school is also improving. She requested Sri Lanka to share the clause in the Act Parliament enacted to get 25% representation of women at local government levels, and also about launching the secretariat for elders.

Hon. Mr. Senevirathne (Sri Lanka) offered to share those laws with the MP from Bhutan, and explained that the parliament undertook a number of consultations to pass these amendments. For the Secretariat for elders, he asked to speak with her after the session about how Sri Lanka set up this secretariat. He also requested input from Bhutan on how they got to zero emissions and made such environmental improvements.

Hon. Mr. Rapolu (India) noted that India is evaluating its experiences against the strategic goals, and notes that as we are counting on youth, we need to protect them in our communities and countries, specifically in online safety and security, and we need to engage with scientific research to inform policy.

H.E. Mr. Zangpo (Bhutan) noted that the participants in this General Assembly have a moral responsibility to inform their fellow parliamentarians back at home about the topics discussed so that there are no more gaps in our knowledge on major issues. He encouraged participants to recognize the universal values embodied in the SDGs, and think about the future generations as well as taking care of the present generation. He also called for a stable and peaceful environment, as well as a rule of law with a democratic culture.

Hon. Mr. Senevirathne (Sri Lanka) noted that Sri Lanka is committed to the realization of the SDGs, especially in the new government, and they have even established a ministry for sustainable development. Protection of people, the planet, peace, prosperity, and partnership are the main aims.



## AFPPD governance session

**Management outcome 4: Good governance:** Good governance, clear accountability and effective communication are well institutionalized and practiced in AFPPD.

- *Session Chairperson: Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, MP Australia; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD*



*AFPPD Office Bearers provided updates on the organization's governance status. (Photo: AFPPD)*

### **AFPPD's governance structure**

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

Hon. Dr. Sirathranont identified the importance of having processes in place to guide decision making as part of AFPPD's good governance, and that the organization must also focus on transparency and accountability. At the 2015 General Assembly, Hon. Dr. Sirathranont reported that accountability was integrated into the strategic plan. The roles and obligations of AFPPD have also been properly explained, and the Secretariat is required to facilitate good governance in all its operations. From 2016 to 2017, the Secretariat has followed a revised results and accountability framework, which has been reviewed every six months. AFPPD has also published annual reports in 2015, 2016, and 2017. The Executive Committee has convened all required meetings, and implemented activities within the AFPPD strategic framework.

According to Strategy 4.2, AFPPD has been re-organizing the Secretariat to ensure it maximizes UN and CSO partnerships, which is illustrated through the MOUs concluded with HelpAge and SAIEVAC in 2016, and more recently with UNESCO and Plan International, focusing on youth. AFPPD is committed to continuing to reform itself to become more professional, and the Secretariat is committed to communicating better with each National Committee to ensure national capacity building.

### **AFPPD financial statement 2016-2017/Approval of audited accounts**

- H.E. Mrs. Lork Kheng, MP Cambodia, and Treasurer, AFPPD

H.E. Kheng reported that AFPPD's income and expenses were balanced for 2016, with 51% of the income coming through the Japan Trust Fund via UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office. AFPPD's fund utilization rate is at 99.9%, and by the third quarter of 2017, AFPPD had utilized 90% of its annual funds, and would spend the rest in the fourth quarter. UNFPA assessed AFPPD's financial status in 2016 and gave AFPPD unqualified financial status. AFPPD has also been determined a low-risk implementing agency.

## AFPPD Secretariat's reports on activities in 2016–2017 and action plans for 2018–2019

- Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director, AFPPD

Dr. Marumoto reported on the Secretariat's activities for 2016–2017, providing examples of activities implementing each of the results outcomes.

Under Outcome 1, Dr. Marumoto recalled the workshop on legislating for the full achievement of the SDGs in Kyrgyzstan in 2016. This was a multi-stakeholder workshop that resulted in a National Action Plan for advocacy on the SDGs. She also noted that the briefing cards for parliamentarians focusing on the three strategic priority areas would support Outcome 1.

Under Outcomes 2 and 3, Dr. Marumoto reported on the Standing Committee Meeting on Active Ageing, where an MOU with HelpAge international was signed.

Under Outcome 3, Dr. Marumoto reported the global political influence of MPs and the AFPPD at the GCPPD meeting in advance of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit. The agenda of the conference included AFPPD's strategic priorities, as well as an additional topic of infectious diseases and a session on UHC.

The conference declaration was delivered to Prime Minister Abe, and the recommendations made by the GCPPD were incorporated by the G7 leaders in their outcome documents, including the G7 Leaders' Declaration.

Addressing Outcomes 1, 2, and 3, Dr. Marumoto cited the multistakeholder forum in Vietnam, combined with a Standing Committee Meeting on Active Ageing and a study tour. The combination of a meeting, study tour, and Standing Committee meeting is a good model to maximize resources and learning opportunities for AFPPD.

Dr. Marumoto also introduced planned future meetings for 2018. Firstly, in the priority area of gender equality and women's empowerment, the women ministers and parliamentarians conference is tentatively being planned to be held alongside the Healthy Women, Healthy Economies meeting in Papua New Guinea. AFPPD is also planning a regional conference on youth in Kazakhstan, and a regional conference on ageing in Iran. She also noted the AFPPD's goal of continuing to strive to be a knowledge centre for parliamentarians in a user-friendly format. She shared her intentions to continue following the strategic frameworks and the *AFPPD Constitution* to be accountable and effective into the future.

Hon. Dr. Sirathranont added to his remarks by noting that, before 2014, AFPPD had no discernible system, and after Dr. Marumoto joined AFPPD, she implemented a human resources manual, a finance manual, and an operational manual. Hon. Dr. Sirathranont noted that, based on the hard work of Hon. Professor Takemi and Dr. Marumoto, AFPPD has become an organization that is based on plans, and we can actually follow up and implement these plans. He further noted that, after adopting the *AFPPD Constitution*, funding was difficult because of the global economic crisis, and because of diminishing contributions to UNFPA. However, he recognized Hon. Professor Takemi and Dr. Marumoto's efforts in increasing membership and activities in spite of diminishing funds. He also recognized the large countries like India, China, Indonesia, and Pakistan for participating in the Forum, and the Honourable Speaker of Bhutan, who participates in all the meetings.

Hon. Ms. Sudmalis closed the session by reminding participants that the reputation of parliamentarians can be affected by the groups they are affiliated with. She noted that AFPPD's good governance affects the members' reputations at home, and as funding continues to diminish, AFPPD and its members will be relying on its partnerships more and more. She commended AFPPD for being a low-risk investment for international donors and reflecting well on all the member countries and participating MPs.

## Closing session

- Session Chairperson: Hon. Mr. Eswarapatham Saravanapavan, MP Sri Lanka; Deputy Chairperson, SLPPD



Extreme right: Hon. Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat, Jr., MP Philippines; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD, delivered the summary conclusion of the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Also on the table during the Closing session were (left to right) Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, MP Australia, and Vice Chairperson, AFPPD; Hon. Mr. S.B. Dissanayake, MP, Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare, Sri Lanka, and Chairperson, SLPPD; Hon. Mr. Tilak Marapana, MP, Minister of Development Assignments and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka; and Hon. Mr. Eswarapatham Saravanapavan, MP Sri Lanka, and Deputy Chairperson, SLPPD. (Photo: AFPPD)

### Summary conclusion by AFPPD Vice Chairperson

- Hon. Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat, Jr., MP Philippines; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD; Chairperson, Philippines Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc. (PLCPD)

Hon. Rep. Baguilat summarized the sessions and findings during this 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the AFPPD, in which 24 countries attended and discussed the main theme of *Engaging Parliamentarians and Pursuing Human Development*. He noted that this General Assembly came at the halfway point in AFPPD's strategic cycle, and the General Assembly sought to evaluate improvements made and challenges faced in strengthening AFPPD's good governance and accountability as it continues to work toward achieving its strategic priorities. He recalled the findings in the various conference sessions, including the importance of evidence-based policy-making to address challenges and dynamics in population and development. He also recalled sessions where National Committees updated the General Assembly on their achievements in line with outcome 1 of National Capacity building, and sessions on effective partnership-building and political influence, in line with Outcomes 2 and 3. He also recalled the sessions where the Assembly was updated on AFPPD's governance and activities throughout the past 2 years, and was provided with a summary of AFPPD's strong position as a low-risk implementer.

## **Closing speech by Chief Guest**

- Hon. Mr. Tilak Marapana, MP, Minister of Development Assignments and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka

Hon. Mr. Tilak Marapana congratulated all the delegates on a successful conference, and noted that the SLPPD had been established and collaborating with AFPPD for more than 30 years. He noted the group's focus on environmental issues, health issues, and other related issues. He also recalled that AFPPD is one of the oldest parliamentary groups in the South Pacific, and facilitates networking at national, regional, and global levels. Hon. Mr. Marapana commended AFPPD's strategic framework, including gender equality and women's empowerment, investing in youth, and active ageing, alongside the issues of safety and security, health, and participation. Hon. Mr. Marapana noted that Sri Lanka has been able to provide free healthcare and free education for all citizens, as well as care for older persons, which has enabled the achievement of progress toward human development indicators. He noted that women's life expectancy has improved greatly in Sri Lanka in recent years, and more women than men are enrolled in universities than ever before. He also recalled the difficult political problems, including a 30-year war and other human rights issues faced by the country, and yet Sri Lanka had been able to achieve so much in terms of human development. He commended the government for successfully integrating the country into the international community. He closed his remarks by thanking the Chairperson of the General Assembly and the Sri Lankan Minister of Social Empowerment for the success of this meeting. He also expressed his thanks to the AFPPD staff for organizing this event in Sri Lanka.

## **Closing remarks**

- Hon. Mr. S.B. Dissanayake, MP, Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare, Sri Lanka; Chairperson, SLPPD

Hon. Mr. Dissanayake noted that, at this 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of AFPPD, the delegates deliberated and shared information on population and development. He recalled that, in the opening session, Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi delivered a message by video, affirming the importance of population issues and sustainable development. He expressed recognition to the Japanese Embassy and UNFPA for their support of these efforts and this meeting. Hon. Mr. Dissanayake also recalled Dr. Erken's remarks highlighting the importance of providing healthcare to all in order to assure the welfare of all people, especially women. Hon. Mr. Dissanayake also recognized the remarks of Hon. Mr. Marapana, who noted the importance of improving the living standards in each country. Hon. Mr. Dissanayake also noted that, on the second day of the meeting, the importance of political influence and agenda setting in member countries was reviewed, and a number of the AFPPD's conferences and sub-regional conferences related to national capacity building, strategic partnership building, and political influence were recalled for the Assembly.

Hon. Mr. Dissanayake closed his remarks by thanking Hon. Prof. Takemi for his leadership of this forum, and to Hon. Ms. Sudmalis for her leadership in this meeting, as well as Hon. Prof. P.J. Kurien as Vice-Chair, and Hon. Dr. Sirathranont as Secretary-General. He also thanked Dr. Marumoto for her facilitation of this meeting.

- Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, MP Australia; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD

Hon. Ms. Sudmalis closed the General Assembly by thanking all delegates for their participation. She reminded all MPs in attendance that this was not the end, but rather a beginning as they are being commissioned to take these ideas back to their countries. She noted the importance of looking after our men, women, aged, and youth. She noted that unemployment remains high in all nations and youth are perplexed about their futures, so parliamentarians need to be careful about what they do next in light of these complexities.

She also expressed her thanks to the volunteers who facilitated the conference, and presented a small gift to Hon. Mr. Dissanayake. In closing, she thanked Dr. Marumoto, Hon. Mr. Marapana, and all participants for their lively participation.

## Summary conclusion

During the past two days, the delegates of 24 countries have attended this 12th General Assembly of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians for Population and Development on *Engaging Parliamentarians, Pursuing Human Development*, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. As a halfway point in AFPPD's current strategic cycle, this General Assembly meeting aims to evaluate improvements made so far and the challenges that remain in strengthening AFPPD's good governance, transparency, and accountability, and looks at ways forward for continuing to achieve AFPPD's strategic priorities in order to best equip its members to promote evidence-based policy making on population and development issues.

On Day 1 of the conference, we recalled that 55% of the world's population is represented by the AFPPD member countries. However, key issues in women's empowerment and gender equality remain: up to one-third of the global burden of disease is due to poor access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and up to 800 maternal deaths occur each day. The demographic dividend is already passed in some Asian countries, while others are enjoying it now, and still others will experience it soon, so it is a critical moment for investing in youth and addressing active and healthy ageing through evidence-based policy making across Asia.

In light of these population dynamics in the region, we addressed the objectives of the General Assembly meeting, recalling the revision of the *AFPPD Constitution*, the *AFPPD Strategic Plan*, and the development of the *Strategic Priorities Framework*, which was informed by the advice of the Standing Committees on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Investing in Youth, and Active Aging. We also looked forward to sessions on each of the outcomes and outputs of the strategic plan, including national capacity building, effective partnership building, political influence, and good governance.

In the session addressing the national capacity building outcome, we heard reports from representatives of the national committees of our member countries. Many of our delegates have been instrumental in bringing population and development issues to the forefront of the legislative agendas in their countries, addressing issues such as family violence, child marriage, education and youth entrepreneurship, and long-term care for older persons.

In the session on the effective partnership building outcome, we heard about effective partnerships with the private sector to promote women's health and economic participation, protect children from violence, and provide an evidence base for policies to address key issues in ageing and migration. Through collaboration between we, parliamentarians, and our private sector, NGO, and research partners, we see that our legislation can be even more effective. We also recognized the MOUs signed between AFPPD and its key partners Plan International and UNESCO.

In the session on the political influence outcome, we recalled a number of key conferences organized by AFPPD, and the ways in which the political commitments made by we, parliamentarians, at these conferences had been part of influencing global policy agendas, regional actions, and the achievement of our own national development agendas and legislation. These conferences and workshops have played a key role in mainstreaming the SDGs and the ICPD Programme of Action into national development plans and legislation.

In the session reviewing the good governance output, AFPPD's committees were recognized for their achievements in support of AFPPD's strategic goals. AFPPD's financial status was also reviewed and approved by the assembly. We also reviewed various activities the AFPPD has undertaken under each of the strategic outcomes, including workshops and conferences, political

commitments and declarations, national and regional advocacy plans, the briefing cards project, and MOUs signed with strategic partners. AFPPD reported on its intention to hold a number of conferences next year in line with its strategic framework, and is striving to be a knowledge center for parliamentarians in their work.

We also welcomed a number of recommendations from members, including to increase regional dialogue mechanisms, facilitation of study tours, support for surveys to improve the evidence base in population and development laws and policies, improved monitoring and evaluation of AFPPD's outputs as well as National Committee activities and achievements, among many other recommendations and helpful feedback.

Throughout the sessions, we, parliamentarians, were reminded of our unique role in ensuring the achievement of the 17 goals and 169 targets of the SDGs by 2030, leaving no one behind.



## The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

*“Engaging Parliamentarians, Pursuing Human Development”*

Colombo, Sri Lanka | 7-9 October 2017

Date & Time		Agenda
<b>Friday 6 October</b>		
All Day	Arrival of AFPPD Executive Members and Standing Committee Co-chairs	Arrival of all other participants
	<u>09:00 – 16:00</u> Registration at AFPPD Secretariat Room	<u>9:00 - 20:00</u> Registration at AFPPD Secretariat Room
17:00 – 20:00	83 <sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee Meeting, followed by dinner	Dinner by participants' own arrangements
<b>Saturday 7 October</b>		
07:55 – 08:00	Meet at the Hotel Lobby and Depart for the Conference Venue	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	
09:00 – 10:00	<p><b>OPENING SESSION:</b></p> <p><b>Lighting the Lamp (5 min.)</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis</b>, MP Australia; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD</p> <p><b>Opening Statements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi</b>, MP Japan; Chairperson, AFPPD (5 min.)</li> <li>• <b>Hon. Mr. S.B. Dissanayake</b>, Minister of Social Empowerment, Welfare &amp; Kandyan Heritage of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; Chair, Sri Lankan Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Sustainable Development (SLPPD) (5 min.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Welcome Speeches:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Mr. Wasantha Aluwihare</b>, State Minister of Agriculture, Sri Lanka (5 min.)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Koji Yagi</b>, Charge d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of Japan in Colombo, Sri Lanka (5 min.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Keynote Speeches:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Professor Lakshman Dissanayake</b>, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo (10 min.)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Arthur Erken</b>, Director, Division of Communications and Strategic Partnership, UNFPA (10 min.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Speech by Chief Guest:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama</b>, Minister of Special Assignments, Sri Lanka (10 min.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Opening Session Photo (5 min.)</b></p>	
10:00 – 10:30	Group photo. Tea and coffee break	

Date & Time	Agenda
10:30 – 11:45	<p><b>AFPPD MID-TERM STRATEGIC REVIEW SESSION – AGENDA SETTING:</b></p> <p><i>* In this session, AFPPD first welcomes new and reactivated members, followed by agenda setting and reporting on the mid-term progress of implementation of the AFPPD Strategic Plans 2016-2017 against the Results Chain and Accountability Framework and the Standing Committees Strategic Priorities Framework.</i></p> <p><i>* Co-chairs of AFPPD’s three Standing Committees report on recommendations made by the Standing Committees during 2016-2017 and AFPPD’s progress made so far, as well as share their reflections and ways forward.</i></p> <p><b>Chair: Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis</b>, MP Australia; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD (5 min.)</p> <p><u>Welcoming Ceremony: Introduction of AFPPD’s reactivated National Committees: <b>Sri Lanka, Iran, and a new member, Tuvalu.</b> (10 min. including a photo session)</u></p> <p><u>Short Slideshow on AFPPD’s First Two Years of the Strategic Plans Period 2016-2019 (5 min.)</u></p> <p><b>Agenda Setting &amp; AFPPD Mid-Term Review of Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2016-2019:</b> Objectives and Expected Results of the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Mika Marumoto</b>, Executive Director, AFPPD (10 min.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Reports on AFPPD Standing Committees Activities - Reflections and Ways Forward</b></p> <p>(1) Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment  (2) Investing in Youth  (3) Active Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Mrs. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay</b>, MP Nepal (10 min.)</li> <li>• <b>Hon. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Mai</b>, MP Vietnam (10 min.)</li> </ul> <p><i>Reflection:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Mr. Dilan Perera</b>, MP State Minister of Highways, Sri Lanka (10 min.)</li> </ul> <p>Q &amp; A; Discussion (20 min.)</p>
11:45 – 13:00	Lunch break

13:10 – 15:10	<p><b>NATIONAL COMMITTEES REPORTING SESSION (I):</b></p> <p><b>Strategic Outcome 1 - National Capacity Building:</b> <i>National, sub-national and sectoral policies and plans are in line with the Asia Pacific Population Conference Ministerial Declaration and incorporate the health and gender goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. Increased national and sub-national budgets are allocated to enable the implementation of their related commitments.</i></p> <p><i>* National Committee representatives report on outputs delivered and progress made during 2016-2017 in AFPPD strategic priority issues within the AFPPD Standing Committees Strategic Priorities Framework.</i></p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Mika Marumoto</b>, Executive Director, AFPPD</li> </ul> <p><b>Chair:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis</b>, MP Australia; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD</li> </ul> <p><b>Report from the Pacific</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia, Cook Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea</li> </ul> <p><b>Report from West and South Asia:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka</li> </ul> <p><b>Chairs' wrap-up (10 min)</b></p>
15:10 – 15:30	Tea and coffee break
15:30 – 17:45	<p><b>NATIONAL COMMITTEES REPORTING SESSION (II):</b></p> <p><b>Strategic Outcome 1 - National Capacity Building:</b> <i>National, sub-national and sectoral policies and plans are in line with the Asia Pacific Population Conference Ministerial Declaration and incorporate the health and gender goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. Increased national and sub-national budgets are allocated to enable the implementation of their related commitments.</i></p> <p><i>* National Committee representatives report on outputs delivered and progress made during 2016-2017 in AFPPD strategic priority issues within the AFPPD Standing Committees Strategic Priorities Framework.</i></p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> <b>Dr. Mika Marumoto</b>, Executive Director, AFPPD</p> <p><b>Co-Chairs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Dr. Wang Longde</b>, MP China; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD</li> <li>• <b>Hon. Mr. Shavkhat Utemisov</b>, MP Kazakhstan; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD</li> </ul> <p><b>Report from Central Asia:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan</li> </ul> <p><b>Report from East Asia:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• China, Japan (TBC), Mongolia (TBC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Report from South East Asia:</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambodia, Indonesia (TBC), Lao PDR, Malaysia (TBC), Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam</li> </ul> <p><b>Chairs' Wrap-up (10 min. = 5 min. each)</b></p>
17:45 – 18:15 19:00 – 19:30 19:30 – 21:30	<p>Return to the Hotel Depart the Hotel for Dinner <b>Welcome dinner hosted by Hon. Mr. S. B. Dissanayake, Minister of Social Empowerment, Welfare &amp; Kandyan Heritage</b></p>

<b>Sunday 8 October</b>	
08:25 – 08:30	Meet at the Hotel Lobby and Depart for the Conference Venue
09:00 – 10:15	<p><b>PARTNERS SESSION:</b></p> <p><b><u>Strategic Outcome 2: Strategic Partnership Building:</u></b> <i>The ICPD regional agreement is extended and supported by other parliamentary and CSO groups and mechanisms for wider support.</i></p> <p><i>* AFPPD's strategic partners reflect on collaboration undertaken during the past two years in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment, investing in youth, and active ageing, and share major joint outputs delivered so far, and ways forward to achieve common goals for the next two years and beyond.</i></p> <p><b>Co-Moderators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Mrs. Sudarshani Fernandopulle</b>, State Minister of City Planning and Water Supply; Member of AFPPD Standing Committee on Youth; SLPPD Member</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Mika Marumoto</b>, Executive Director, AFPPD</li> </ul> <p><u>Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding with Plan International &amp; UNESCO (TBC)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Senait Gebregziabher, Asia Regional Director, Plan International (5 min.)</li> <li>• Mr. Kabir Singh, Senior Project Officer for HIV Health and Wellbeing Team, UNESCO (5 min.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel Discussion: (A 45-minute session with 2~3 rounds of questions)</b></p> <p><i>Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Tracy Huang</b>, Associate Director, C&amp;M International</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Lynda Sirigoi-Kami</b>, President of the Women Doctors Association PNG, representing the <i>APEC Healthy Women Healthy Economies</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Investing in Youth:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Rinchen Chophel</b>, Director General, South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)</li> </ul> <p><i>Active Ageing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Eduardo Klien</b>, HelpAge International, Regional Director of Asia and the Pacific</li> </ul> <p><i>Overarching Topics – Migration &amp; Women, Youth, and Older Persons</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prof. Wako Asato</b>, Kyoto University</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Bjorn Andersson</b>, Regional Director, Asia Pacific Regional Office, UNFPA</li> </ul>

	Q & A; Open discussion (25 min.)
10:15 – 10:45	<i>Tea and coffee break</i>
10:45 – 12:00	<p><b>POLITICAL INFLUENCE SESSION:</b></p> <p><b><u>Strategic Outcome 3 - Political Influence:</u></b> <i>AFPPD politically influences regional and global development agenda and provides aligned support to its realization.</i></p> <p><i>* This session reviews and evaluates AFPPD’s capacity and ability to politically influencing agenda-setting and mainstreaming its strategic priority issues in the regional and global levels during the past two years. Specifically, the session critically reviews how the statements of commitment issued upon completion of the AFPPD major conferences have been followed-up, and to what extent, AFPPD had political impact on mainstreaming the common agenda. The session recommends ways forward in identifying specific intermediate strategic goals for AFPPD to achieve in its strategic priority areas involving women and girls, youth, older persons, and other cross-cutting thematic issues.</i></p> <p><b>Co-Chairs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Mr. Jigme Zangpo</b>, Speaker of the Parliament of Bhutan</li> <li>• <b>Hon. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Mai</b>, MP Vietnam; Executive Member, AFPPD</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel Discussion:</b> (A 50-minute session with 2~3 rounds of questions)</p> <p><i>Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development Toward the 2016 G7 Ise Shima Summit (Tokyo, April 2016)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Mr. Jigme Zangpo</b>, Speaker of the Parliament of Bhutan</li> </ul> <p><i>11<sup>th</sup> Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference (Bangkok, November 2016)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis</b>, MP Australia; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD; Chairperson, Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (APGPD)</li> </ul> <p><i>South Asia Parliamentarians’ Meeting on Child Marriage – “Accelerating our Collective Efforts to End Child Marriage” (Kathmandu, March 2016)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Mrs. Mahalaxmi Dina Upadhyay</b>, MP Nepal</li> </ul> <p><i>Regional Parliamentarians’ Conference on Combating Human Trafficking (Bangkok, March 2017)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat, Jr.</b>, MP Philippines; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD; Chairperson, Philippines Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc. (PLCPD)</li> </ul> <p><u><i>Reflections from Sub-regional Workshop/Conference in the Pacific and Central Asia</i></u></p> <p><i>AFPPD-NZPPD Agenda 2030 Workshop for Pacific Parliaments (Wellington, September 2016)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Tangata Vainerere</b>, Representing the Clerk of the Parliament of the Cook Islands</li> </ul> <p><i>AFPPD-NCKPD Central Asian Sub-Regional Conference – “Addressing the Challenges of vulnerable Populations in Central Asia” (Bishkek, June 2017)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Mr. Osmonbek Artykbayev</b>, MP Kyrgyzstan; Chairperson, National Committee of Kyrgyzstan on Population and Development (NCKPD)</li> </ul>

	<p><i>AFPPD-SLPPD National Inception Workshop (Negombo, February 2017)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Mr. Lakshman Senevirathne</b>, MP, Minister of Science, Technology and Research, Sri Lanka</li> </ul> <p>Q &amp; A; Open discussion (25 min.)</p>
12:00 – 13:20	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30 – 15:00	<p><b>AFPPD GOVERNANCE SESSION:</b></p> <p><b><u>Management Outcome 4 - Good Governance:</u></b> <i>Good governance, clear accountability and effective communication are well institutionalized and practiced in AFPPD.</i></p> <p><i>* This session reviews AFPPD Secretariat’s status of implementation of the recommendations made by the AFPPD Task Force on Transparency, Accountability and Governance at the 11th General Assembly in order to strengthen AFPPD’s operational transparency, accountability and good governance. AFPPD’s Secretary General and Treasurer report to the General Assembly, followed by the Executive Director’s presentation on the Secretariat’s work during 2016-2017 in planning and implementing the AFPPD Strategic Plans and planned work for 2018-2019.</i></p> <p><b>Chair:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis</b>, MP Australia; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD (5 min.)</li> </ul> <p>AFPPD’s Governance Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont</b>, MP Thailand; Secretary-General, AFPPD (15 min.)</li> </ul> <p>AFPPD Financial Statement 2016-2017/Approval of Audited Accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Mrs. Lork Kheng</b>, MP Cambodia; Treasurer, AFPPD (TBC) (15 min.)</li> </ul> <p>AFPPD Secretariat’s Reports on Activities in 2016-2017 and Action Plans for 2018-2019 (including Research; Advocacy; M&amp;E; Communications Strategy; Resource Mobilization)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Mika Marumoto</b>, Executive Director, AFPPD (20 min.)</li> </ul> <p>Q &amp; A; Discussion (30 min.)</p> <p><b>Chair’s Wrap-up</b> (5 min.)</p>
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Tea and coffee break</i>
15:30 – 16:30	<p><b>CLOSING SESSION:</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Mr. Eswarapatham Saravanapavan</b>, MP Sri Lanka; Deputy Chairperson, SLPPD</li> </ul> <p><b>Summary Conclusion by AFPPD Vice Chairperson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat, Jr.</b>, MP Philippines; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD; Chairperson, Philippines Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc. (PLCPD) (10 min.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing Speech by Chief Guest:</b></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Mr. Tilak Marapana</b>, MP, Minister of Development Assignments and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka (10 min.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing Remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Mr. S.B. Dissanayake</b>, Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare; Chairperson, SLPPD (5 min.)</li> <li>• <b>Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis</b>, MP Australia; Vice Chairperson, AFPPD</li> </ul> <p>* <i>Evaluation</i> (5 min.)</p>
17:30 – 20:00	<b><i>Closing Dinner hosted by AFPPD</i></b>

**AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
**“Engaging Parliamentarians, Pursuing Human Development”**  
 6-9 October 2017 | Colombo, Sri Lanka

**List of Participants (in an alphabetical order by country)**

**MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

**Afghanistan**

1. **Hon. Ms. Golalai Nur Safi, MP\***  
Chairperson, National Committee on Population and Development
2. **Hon. Mr. Haji Mohammad Abduh, MP**
3. **Hon. Ms. Shukria Eisa Khel, MP\***

**Australia**

4. **Hon. Ms. Ann Sudmalis, MP\***  
Vice Chairperson, AFPPD  
Chair, APGPD

**Bangladesh**

5. **Hon. Dr. A. F. M. Ruhul Haque, MP**  
Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Science and Technology
6. **Hon. Mrs. Salina Begum, MP\***
7. **Hon. Mrs. Sanjida Khanam, MP\***

**Bhutan**

8. **H.E. Mr. Jigme Zangpo, MP**  
Speaker, National Assembly of Bhutan
9. **Hon. Ms. Kinley Om, MP\***
10. **Hon. Mr. Nidup Zangpo, MP**

**Cambodia**

11. **H.E. Mrs. Lork Kheng, MP\***  
Treasurer, AFPPD

**People’s Republic of China**

12. **Hon. Dr. Wang Longde, MP**  
Vice Chairperson, AFPPD  
Co-Chair, AFPPD Standing Committee on Active Ageing
13. **Hon. Dr. Liu Depei, MP**

**Cook Islands**

14. **Hon. Ms. Vainetutai Rose Brown, MP\***
15. **Hon. Mr. Toka Hagai, MP**

**India**

16. **Hon. Mr. Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu, MP**

**Indonesia**

17. **Hon. Dr. Ayub Khan, MP**
18. **Hon. Ms. Sri Wulan, MP\***
19. **Hon. Mr. Marinus Gea, MP**

**Islamic Republic of Iran**

20. **Hon. Mr. Abdolreza Azizi, MP**
21. **Hon. Dr. Mohammad Vahdati Halan, MP**  
Chairperson, IRPPDC
22. **Hon. Mr. Masood Rezaei, MP**

**Japan**

23. **Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, MP**  
Chairperson, AFPPD  
Co-Chair, AFPPD Standing Committee on Active Ageing

### Kazakhstan

24. Hon. Mr. Shavkhat Utemissov, MP

25. Hon. Ms. Irina Petrovna Aronova,  
MP\*

### Kyrgyzstan

26. Hon. Mr. Osmonbek Artykbaev,  
MP

27. Hon. Mr. Abdimukhtar Mamatov,  
MP

### Lao PDR

28. Hon. Mr. Alounxai Sounnalath, MP

29. Hon. Mr. Bountem Souangsa  
Nhavong, MP

### Nepal

30. Hon. Mrs. Mahalaxmi Dina  
Upadhyay, MP\*  
Chairperson, NFPPD  
Co-Chair, AFPPD Standing  
Committee on Investing in Youth

31. Hon. Mr. Dhani Ram Paudel, MP

### Pakistan

32. Hon. Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi,  
MP  
Deputy Speaker of the National  
Assembly of Pakistan

33. Hon. Mr. Sahibzada Muhammad  
Yaqoob, MP

34. Hon. Ms. Farhana Qamar, MP\*

### Philippines

35. Hon. Rep. Teodoro Brawner  
Baguilat Jr., MP  
Vice-Chairperson AFPPD  
Chairperson, PLCPD

36. Hon. Rep. Dante Antonio L. Tinio,  
MP

### Sri Lanka

37. Hon. Mr. Karu Jayasuriya, MP  
Speaker of the Parliament of the  
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri  
Lanka

38. Hon. Mr. S.B. Dissanayake, MP  
Minister of Social Empowerment  
and Welfare & Kandyan Heritage of  
the Democratic Socialist Republic of  
Sri Lanka

39. Hon. Mr. Thilanga Sumathipala,  
MP  
Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of  
the Democratic Socialist Republic of  
Sri Lanka

40. Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, MP  
Minister of Special Assignments, Sri  
Lanka

41. Hon. Mr. Mangala Samaraweera,  
MP  
Minister of Finance and Mass Media

42. Hon. Mr. Lakshman Senevirathne,  
MP  
Minister of Science, Technology and  
Research

43. Hon. Mr. Dayasiri Jayasekara, MP  
Minister of Sports

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MP  
State Minister of Agriculture, Sri  
Lanka

45. Hon. Mr. Anura Priyadarshana  
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- 49. Hon. Mr. Tilak Marapana, MP**  
Minister of Development Assignments and Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 50. Hon. Mrs. Sudarshani Fernandopulle, MP\***  
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- 60. Hon. Mr. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, MP**  
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Deputy Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs
- 62. Hon. Mr. Eswarapatham Saravanapavan, MP**  
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- 63. Hon. Mrs. Thusitha Wijemanna, MP\***
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- 74. Hon. Mr. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana, MP**
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**76. Hon. Mr. Angajan Ramanadan, MP**

**77. Hon. Mrs. Shanthi Sriskandarasa,  
MP\***

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**78. Hon. Mrs. Lutfiya Rajabova, MP\***  
Chairman, Committee of the Majlisi  
Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli of the  
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#### **Thailand**

**79. Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP**  
Secretary-General, AFPPD  
Chairperson, The Standing  
Committee on Public Health of the  
National Legislative Assembly

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**80. Hon. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Mai, MP**  
Executive Member AFPPD

**81. Hon. Mrs. Ton Ngoc Hanh, MP\***

**82. Hon. Mr. Dinh Cong Sy, MP**

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Deputy Speaker and Chairman of  
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**90. Mr. M.S.M. Nuzly**

**91. Ms. Shainujaa Inpanathan**

**92. Mr. Supun Wijerathne**

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**99. Mr. Chen Naikang**  
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**103.Dr. Farrukh Usmonov**  
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**104.Mr. Rustam Suleymanov**  
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**112.Secretary**  
Ministry of Women and Child Affairs

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**118.Mrs. Nguyen Thi Thu Tra**  
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**127.Mr. Rasa Sekulovic**  
Regional Head of Child Protection, Plan International

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Director General, SAIEVAC

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Senior Project Officer for HIV Health and Wellbeing Team, UNESCO Bangkok

**131.Dr. Lynda Deborah Sirigoi-Kami**  
President of the Women Doctors Association, Papua New Guinea

**132.Ms. Tracy Huang**  
Associate Director, C&M International

**133.Mr. Ashley William Bonaventure Gois**  
Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum of Asia

**134.Professor Lakshman Dissanayake**  
Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo

**135.Assoc. Prof. Asato Wako**  
Graduate School of Letters  
Kyoto University

**136.Ms. Thelma Kay**  
Former Senior Advisor, Ministry of Social and Family Development  
Singapore

**137.Mr. Jayan Abeywickrama**  
National Programme Analyst  
EmONC, UNFPA Sri Lanka

**138.Mr. Neshan Gunasekera**  
National Programme Analyst, Youth and Young People, UNFPA Sri Lanka

**139.Ms. Latika Maskey Pradhan**  
Assistant Representative (on mission), UNFPA Sri Lanka

**140.Ms. Randima Jayasinghe**  
Communications Analyst, UNFPA Sri Lanka

**141.Ms. Ushanthi Gowthaman**  
Blog Content Writer – Tamil, UNFPA Sri Lanka

**142.Mr. Ajith Liyanage**  
Blog Content Writer – Sinhala, UNFPA Sri Lanka

**143.Ms. Hadley Rose**  
AFPPD Consultant, Legislation Analysis Project

#### **SLPPD Secretariat**

**144.Mr. Suvinda S. Singappuli**  
Director, National Secretariat for Elders, Ministry of Social Empowerment and Welfare

**145.Mr. Wajira Kamburugamuwa**  
Director, National Secretariat for Person with Disabilities.

**146.Mrs. R.B.S. Priyadarshani**

**147.Mr. P.D.R. Kulathunga**

**148.Ms. Sriyani Kanthi**

**149.Ms. W.M. Wathsala**

**150.Mr. P.A.P.I. Wijekulasooriya**

**151.Mr. A.M.P.A.S. Upekshitha**

152.Mr. Chamila Weerakkodi

153.Mr. A.M. Asri

154.Mr. M.M.S.S. Fernando

155.Ms. Kamali Nimalasiri

156.Ms. Buddhini Niwarthana

**SLPPD Volunteers**

157.Mr. Sarath Rupasiri

158.Mr. Ranjith Udayasiri

159.Mr. Ahamed Haneef

160.Ms. G. Vivetha

161.Ms. H.A.A.U de Silva

162.Ms. H.A. Anuradha Ekanayeka

163.Ms. Sugandika Nayanjali

164.Ms. V. Hemapriya

165.Ms. Sulakshana Dassanayake

166.Ms. M.A.C.V. Manthirathna

167.Ms. S. Sellapperumage

168.Ms. K.S.P. Fernando

**AFPPD Secretariat**

169.Dr. Mika Marumoto

Executive Director

170.Ms. Seema Gaikwad

Policy Research and Advocacy  
Advisor

171.Ms. Pornprapas Sappapan

Administration Manager

172.Ms. Jirapa Rerkphongsri

Accounts Officer

173.Mr. Warachin Phani

Administrative Assistant

174.Ms. Sonam Lhamo

Programme Officer

175.Mr. Andries Francois Van Straten

Research Assistant

176.Ms. Abigail Generalia

Communications and Media Officer

<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>176</b>
<b>MPs:</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Female MPs*</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Male MPs</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Parliamentary, National Committee &amp; Government Staff:</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Partners/Resource Persons:</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>SLPPD Staff</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>SLPPD Volunteers</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>AFPPD Staff:</b>	<b>8</b>

**Media coverage**

*Briefing with Sri Lanka press*



Link to video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7i\\_4O7T2RRU&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7i_4O7T2RRU&feature=youtu.be)



Link to video: <http://www.rupavahini.lk/main-news/tamil-news/16954-2017-10-07.html>

HOME / NEWS / COLOMBO HOSTS 12TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ASIAN FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

## Colombo hosts 12th General Assembly of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development



Comments / 07 Views / Monday, 9 October 2017 00:38



3



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The 12th General Assembly of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) successfully concluded yesterday in Colombo with the participation of Members of Parliaments from 24 countries from the Asia-Pacific region.



Source: <http://www.ft.lk/news/Colombo-hosts-12th-General-Assembly-of-Asian-Forum-of-Parliamentarians-on-Population-and-Development/56-641164>

Leading News from Sri Lanka::

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**\* 12th General Assembly of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development opens in Sri Lanka**

Sat, Oct 7, 2017, 10:45 am SL Time, ColomboPage News Desk, Sri Lanka.



Oct 07, Colombo: The 12th General Assembly of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) officially opened today with the participation of Members of Parliaments from 24 Asia-Pacific countries in Sri Lankan capital city of Colombo.

At the two-day meeting from October 7-8, over 150 participants, including 82 Members of Parliament and 37 national committee parliamentary staff from 24 Asia-Pacific countries, will jointly review and evaluate the mid-term implementation status of AFPPD's Strategic Plan 2016-2019.



The current strategy aims to enhance national capacity building and strategic partnerships, as well as strengthen political influence on agenda-setting and policymaking in population and development issues.

AFPPD's three priority strategic pillars are gender equality and women's empowerment, investing in youth, and active ageing.

Source: [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_17B/Oct07\\_1507353304CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_17B/Oct07_1507353304CH.php)



## AFPPD 12th Gen Assembly at BMICH 70 MPs from 30 countries to attend



1180 readers have read this article!

Published by: CT WEB  
2017-10-07 10:15:02



The 12th General Assembly of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) is to be held today (7) and tomorrow (8) at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH). President of the Sri Lanka Forum for Parliamentarians on Population and Sustainable Development (SLPPD) and Social Empowerment and Welfare, Minister S. B. Dissanayake said.

70 Parliamentarians from 30 member countries together with 100 local legislators including 34 Ministers are to participate in the Forum. Special Assignments Minister Sarath Amunugama will deliver the welcome address and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo Professor Lakshman Dissanayake will deliver a special speech, he added.

Minister Dissanayake noted: "Issues regarding the Sri Lankan population: specifically the gradual increase of the ageing population and the decrease of the youth population, sustainable development, youth empowerment, women empowerment, gender equality, and environment protection are the areas that will be discussed at the Forum."

### LATEST NEWS



**Dora the Explorer** live-action film in development at Paramount

2017-10-28 14:12:03



**94-year-old Pennsylvania woman celebrates birthday by skydiving**

2017-10-28 12:18:42



**Security tightened around Gaddafi Stadium**

2017-10-28 11:56:40



**INS Sutlej arrives at the Colombo harbour**

2017-10-28 10:47:35



**Australian, Sri Lankan veterans' friendly hockey**

2017-10-28 09:00:00



**Smart Identity Card from today**

2017-10-27 16:20:22



**Vin Diesel says Jordana**

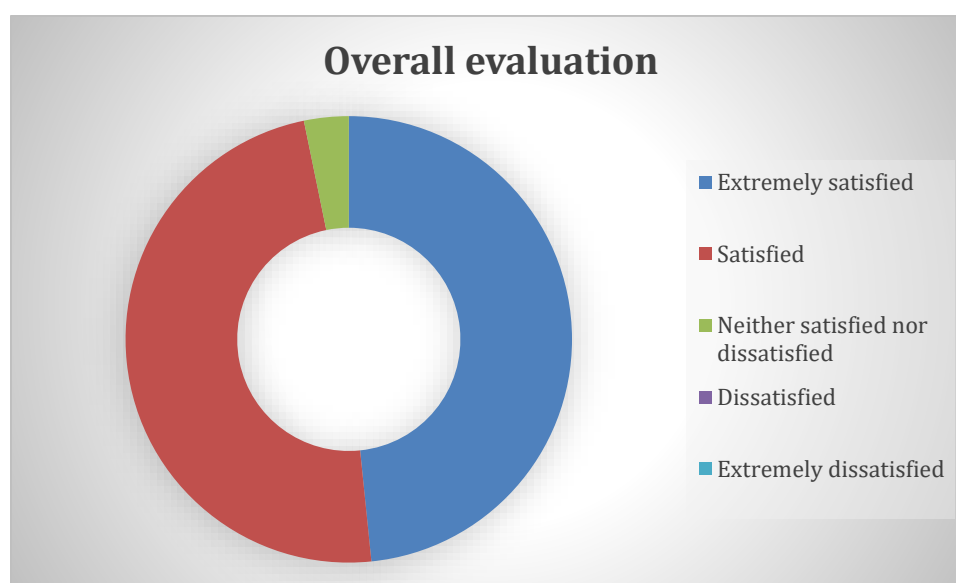
Source: <https://ceylontoday.lk/article20170401CT20170930.php?id=6575>

**AFPPD 12th General Assembly  
7-8 October 2017 | Colombo, Sri Lanka**

**Evaluation results**

**Overall evaluation**

Forty-five (45) or 25.57% of the total number of AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly participants completed the evaluation form. A great majority of them responded positively, with 48.40% confirmed they were extremely satisfied and another 48.40% satisfied with the overall conduct of the meeting. Only one respondent was neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.



The respondents lauded how well-organized the meeting was. They also recognized how the meeting successfully encouraged a good level of participation. Some of them commented that the sessions were informative and well-structured, and excellent time management was practiced throughout the two-day assembly. One participant, however, thought the session on updates from national committees was a bit long.

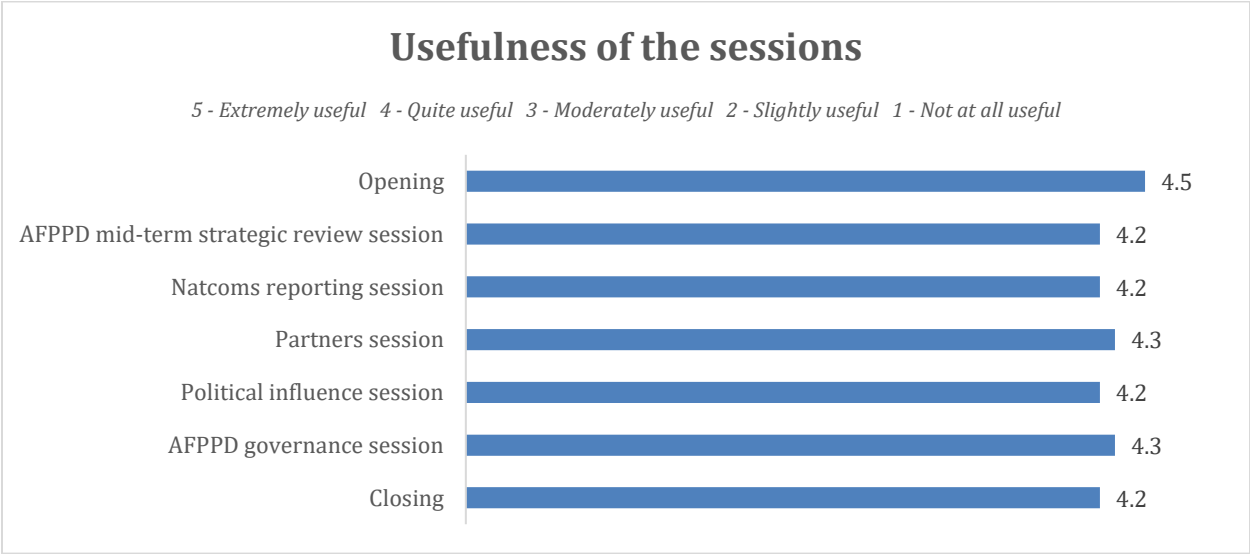
The respondents were pleased about the choice of the venue, applauding the beauty and peacefulness of Colombo, as well as the hospitality and welcoming nature of its people.

**Usefulness of the sessions**

Respondents were asked to evaluate each session, 1 (not useful) to 5 (extremely useful). Generally, the respondents positively evaluated the contents of the meeting, with all sessions garnering scores above 4 (useful) The Opening session, which contained a number of keynote speeches from champions of population and development work, was perceived to be the most useful of all the

seven parts of the assembly. Some of the respondents also expressed appreciation of the host country’s showcase of its rich culture and tradition at the start of the meeting.

The Partners session, as well as the AFPPD governance session tied at second place in terms of the respondents’ perceived usefulness. They especially recognized the significance of knowing how AFPPD had been building and strengthening partnerships, and how these would have implications on their respective work.

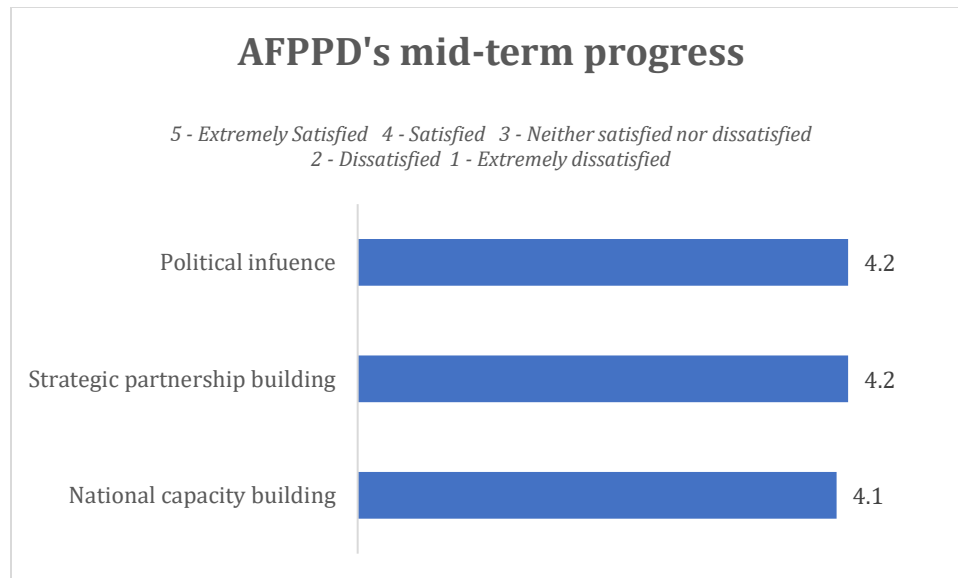


When asked which specific areas they found most beneficial to their respective work, the respondents named strategic partnerships, political influence, updates from national committees, ageing, women and children’s rights, youth development, and governance as their subjects of interest. Strategic partnerships earned the most mentions, validating the high score the related session obtained in the evaluation.

The respondents stated they would appreciate receiving more information on political influence, ageing, women and children’s right (including child marriage), and youth development, among others.

**AFPPD’s mid-term progress**

During the assembly, the participants were also asked to evaluate AFPPD’s mid-term progress, 1 (extremely dissatisfied) to 5 (extremely satisfied) in terms of political influence, strategic partnership building and national capacity building. The Forum obtained generally high marks in all three areas mentioned—above 4, which confirmed satisfaction among those who completed the evaluation form.



Although most respondents who provided additional remarks agreed that the mid-term progress report presented during the session was detailed and comprehensive enough, one of them suggested that a more structured reporting would be necessary.

#### *National capacity building*

The respondents applauded the well-designed framework for action and substantial background papers being used by AFPPD in relation to this area. They are confident that AFPPD has been on track in terms of implementation for the past two years. However, below are, according to them, some areas of improvement for AFPPD to consider in working on national capacity building:

- Activities are more focused on conferences.
- Learn more about the countries in which national capacity building activities are effectively implemented.
- There is a need for more focus on certain themes, as well as time to discuss on them.
- Partnerships at national level are a major step forward.

#### *Strategic partnership building*

AFPPD was praised by the respondents for its successful fostering of partnerships with relevant individuals, as well as government, private, non-government and international organizations. To be able to maintain, strengthen and widen the network, below have been suggested by the respondents:

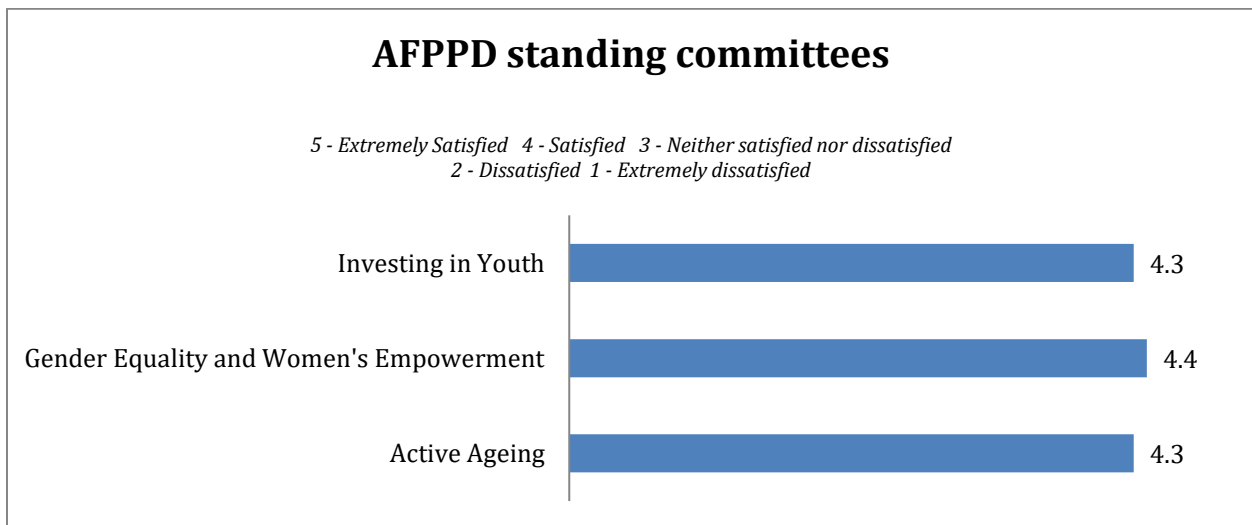
- Ensure sustainability of these partnerships.
- Also examine the capacity of the organizations AFPPD is building partnerships with.
- Create mechanisms with partners for review of implementation; however, make sure that partners' accountability is also established.
- Build more partnerships.

### *Political influence*

The respondents believed that AFPPD had become more recognized globally as a key player in developing and implementing policies related to population and development. One respondent however pointed out that for further improvement, AFPPD would need to be more focused and evidence-based.

### **AFPPD standing committees**

The participants were also requested to evaluate—1 (extremely dissatisfied) to 5 (extremely satisfied)—the work of the three AFPPD standing committees, namely, Active Ageing, Investing in Youth, and Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment. Results confirmed that the respondents were satisfied with the performance of the three standing committees, with the Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment taking home the highest average at 4.4 out of 5.



### *Standing Committee on Active Ageing*

The respondents agreed that under this area, the political commitment towards implementing useful recommendations from previous meetings/conferences had been remarkable. Some particularly mentioned being satisfied with AFPPD’s strong partnership with HelpAge International. They also expressed satisfaction over the recent multistakeholder forum in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Although the feedback was generally positive, the respondents acknowledged that a lot of work would still need to be done in this area.

### *Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment*

Additional comments from some of the respondents recognized the success of this committee’s activities and their respective results. However, they agreed that more women parliamentarians should be required to lead and/or engage. A self-assessment of implementation under this area was also suggested.

### *Standing Committee on Investing in Youth*

The respondents mentioned that activities related to this area had been noticeably increasing. They however believed that AFPPD emphasis had so far been on the other two areas. In this regard, a need to strengthen focus on work related to investing in youth would be needed.

### **Challenges and ways forward**

The respondents were also requested to provide their thoughts on the challenges faced by AFPPD, as well as some recommendations for future activities. Below are summary bullet points of the comments they indicated:

#### *Challenges faced by AFPPD*

- Funding constraints
- Limitations of a small Secretariat
- Addressing all members' interests
- Obtaining interest of and support from parliamentarians
- Lack of political cooperation, including between the parliament and the rest of government
- Differences in countries' political systems and socioeconomic contexts, making it difficult to harmonize activities
- Sustainability of national committees
- Accountability of national platforms to implement/operationalize decisions taken within AFPPD
- Strengthening partnerships
- Lack of means to coordinate systems (no individual or team playing a guiding role)
- Limited Secretariat communication with national committees
- Insufficient work on policy development experience
- Lack of bilateral exchanges between parliamentarians

#### *Improving AFPPD support to national committees*

- Availability of more funding, technical guidelines and capacity building activities
- Development of tools for self-assessment
- More conducts of group study tours in conjunction with regional/subregional meetings/conferences
- Stronger coordination among national committees
- More information sharing and updating on a regular basis, including AFPPD's follow-up on national committee actions
- Best practices shared and localized, especially those that followed evidence-based policy-making/implementation/review/update/reform
- Conduct of training courses for staff
- More human resources
- Separate and tailored approach to parliamentarians from different subregions or groups of countries with the same contexts
- Support on establishment of small unit in parliament that will do coordination of activities

### *Recommendations for AFPPD and future activities*

- On general operations and future activities
  - Look for more financial support.
  - Focus more on sharing evidence-based work.
  - Concentrate on review and follow-up actions on decisions taken, as well as on reporting back.
  - Assist small countries in developing and/or implementing tangible plans, including funding support, as well as in addressing/overcoming challenges.
  - Aim for more realistic actions and concrete solutions, not only conceptual discussions.
  - Give more emphasis to policymaking and effective collaborative actions.
  - Identify the right legislators for future conferences.
  - Invite more experts and scholars, as well as individuals from grassroots level.
  - Co-organize conferences with partners to maximize the benefits.
  - Co-organize, with each national committee, thematic group study exchange programmes.
  
- On subjects/themes of discussion
  - Bring the SDG 2030 agenda and environmental aspects into the discussion.
  - Promote better understanding of demographic dividend.
  - Improve on maternal interventions.
  - Guide countries on scientific analyses on cyber complications in relation to youth development.
  - Provide venue for countries with same religion (Ex. Islamic countries) to share information (how some of them solved problems like family planning, child marriage).
  - Choose a theme that works for all members' concerns.

### *Recommendations for future AFPPD general assemblies*

- General
  - Recognize champions who are implementing strategic and impactful policies.
  - Encourage online/video-streamed participation.
  - Involve more representatives from Asian countries.
  - Request inputs and reports, including from national committees, well in advance (at least two to three months) for AFPPD to collate and distribute to participants early.
  - Invite three MPs and one or two national committee staff.
  - Take statements more specific to decisions taken.
  
- On contents
  - Conduct more mock youth parliament visits like the one in Sri Lanka.
  - Present videos of success stories.
  - Have roundtable discussions.



- On schedule
  - Allot longer speaking time to invited subject matter experts.
  - Provide a short break for the participants to take relaxation activities and/or do social networking (i.e., an afternoon of cultural/tourist activity).
  - Allow more time to discuss leading issues and AFPPD programme goals.
  - National committees should send report to AFPPD Secretariat and the latter would be the one to compile for reporting during GA, instead of having each country report during the general assembly.

Presentations and speeches

**Welcoming speech by Mr. Koji YAGI,  
Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to Sri Lanka  
AFPPD 12th General Assembly in October 7, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Hon. Mr. S.B. Disسانayake,  
Hon. Mr. Wasantha Aluwihare,  
Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama (Chief Guest of the General Assembly)  
Honorable Parliamentarians from Asia-Pacific region,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today and given a chance to say a few words before this distinguished audience.

*(the importance of population and development)*

While the progress of globalization has brought great benefits to humanity, the international community is facing **various threats to human security**, such as climate change, terrorism, refugee issues, and infectious diseases. **Population and development**, the promotion of health, especially Universal Health Coverage or UHC, including reproductive health, is essential for addressing these challenges and **achieving the core principle of the 2030 Agenda**; that is, the realization of a society where **“no one is left behind.”** .

*(the activities of AFPPD and the Gov. of JPN's support)*

AFPPD has been devoted to **advocate for population issues**. In only the past year, the AFPPD has successfully held key leadership roles in mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment, investing in youth, and healthy and active aging into national, regional and global arenas. The Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population Development<sup>1</sup> held in Tokyo May 2016 was a highlight with having participations of 140 parliamentarians over 60 countries<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://gcppd2016.org/en/>

<sup>2</sup> From Sri Lanka, H.E. Ms. Chandrani Bandara, MP/Minister of Women and Child Affairs and Hon. Ms. Sriyani Wijewickrama attended.

Multistakeholder Forum<sup>3</sup> held in Viet Nam in August this year was another key occasion in promoting regional cooperation on aging issue. I am pleased that the Government of Japan has longstanding cooperation with the AFPPD through its financial contribution to the United Nations Population Fund.

*(AFPPD Strategic Plan and UHC)*

In this forum, I have learned that AFPPD will review its **mid-term progress of the AFPPD's Strategic Plan**<sup>4</sup>. The Government of Japan appreciates that the **AFPPD's Strategic Plan** shares common values, especially promotion of **universal health coverage** (Strategy 1.3-Outcome 2). UHC is essential to the realization of SDGs; without healthy and educated people, there can be no way to solve poverty and environmental problems. From this perspective, during the UN General Assembly high level week, the Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo ABE, announced to host "UHC Forum 2017" in Tokyo in December this year. Japan is ready to contribute further to realizing a society where no one will be left behind.

*(Expectation to the AFPPD 12th General Assembly)*

The first International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in 1979 was held here in Sri Lanka.<sup>5</sup> I expect that this meeting, the AFPPD 12th General Assembly, will pave a path for the international community toward achievement of SDGs, marking another milestone in the efforts in population and development.

Thank you for your attention.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.jcie.or.jp/japan/programbook\\_final.pdf](http://www.jcie.or.jp/japan/programbook_final.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.afppd.org/Resources/36-afppd-strategic-plan.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.un.org/popin/icpd/conference/una/940905164839.html>

**The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, 12th General Assembly “Engaging Parliamentarians, Pursuing Human Development”, Colombo, Sri Lanka | 7-9 October 2017**

**Emerging Population Issues in the Asia-Pacific Region**

Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliaments in the Asia-Pacific Region, Distinguished Invitees, Ladies and Gentlemen

The objective of my speech today is to raise awareness among parliamentarians on emerging population scenarios in the Asia-Pacific region. The Asia-Pacific region is experiencing these changes in population dynamics today, including the continued growth of population despite substantial reduction in fertility in many countries. There have also been significant transformations in age structures associated with youth bulges and population ageing, and considerable changes in migration and urbanization. These population trends create many challenges, as well as opportunities, and have crucial implications for social, economic and environmental development. They both shape, and are shaped by, the public policies on jobs creation, poverty alleviation, social protection and pensions, health, education, housing, sanitation, water, food and energy, migration and urbanization that are being used to balance population change, economic growth, social transformation and environmental sustainability. To accomplish and sustain the strategies to create that balance, countries must proactively address, and not simply “respond” to, the issues.

“Demography” alone cannot be regarded as the destiny. Rather, it is essential that countries in the region understand the changing population dynamics over the coming decades, whether these changes become developmental challenges or whether they become factors that facilitate the resolution of those challenges. And vitally important throughout this process is if these new population policies are rights-based, evidence-based and gender-responsive.

**First Demographic Dividend: *Youth Dictate the Future***

It is important to note that all the countries in the Asia and the Pacific region are either in the third or fourth stages of demographic transition, where fertility is still declining or where fertility has dropped to a low level and mortality is low. This situation has already introduced substantial changes to age structures, depending on current position in this demographic transition, by producing more youth of economically productive ages or larger older populations. Age structure arising from such an age structure supports economic growth through, the “demographic dividend,” where a larger concentration of the population is in the labour force, thereby increasing per capita productivity. It is a proven fact that the demographic dividend has contributed substantially to economic growth in East Asia, and, in a demographic transition where opportunity and challenge go hand in hand, represents a positive trend. This also makes a more proper understanding of the social and economic implications of high fertility essential. The population of the Asia-Pacific region is currently growing at 0.9 percent per year, which represents a deceleration in recent years from an average annual growth rate of approximately 2.0 percent per year in the late 1980s. Sri Lanka’s population grew at an annual rate of 1.1 percent between 1981 and 2001 but dropped to 0.71 percent during the 2001-2012 period.

Nevertheless, nearly half of the countries in the region are still yet to come down to replacement-level fertility. This includes Sri Lanka as well. The window for demographic dividend has passed in some countries while in others there is still potential. As fertility rates fall during demographic transition, the age structure of a country starts moving upward by creating a youth bulge in the labour force. If the right kinds of educational, health and economic policies are in place, a special window opens up for faster economic growth and human development. This is the demographic dividend. Demographic dividend has already occurred in Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan. Declining fertility in these countries enhanced both their economic growth and their development, since their comparatively superior numbers of workers had fewer dependents to consume their income. Similarly, greater savings and investment rates were in turn generated, jointly with per capita output. The first demographic dividend in a country characteristically lasts for a few decades, but it is inherently transitory in nature too. The opportunity has already passed in some countries, yet there is still great opportunity to harness its potential in others.

The potential for a “demographic dividend” remains strong in Sri Lanka, but requires that proper measures be put in place. My calculations suggest that first demographic dividend in Sri Lanka will remain until 2037, that is for another two decades. Investments in youth, especially education and health will promote opportunities for developing a skilled and healthy labor force. This should include health programs which will address the full range of child, youth and adult needs in order to make the youth prepare to contribute more significantly to economic growth. Sri Lanka should be able to ensure that their macroeconomic environment is stable, maintain a low unemployment rate by adopting strategies to absorb the rapidly growing workforce of educated and skilled labour, include greater female labour force participation, and implement policies to encourage high savings and investments which will produce favourable economic results and higher per capita income. Furthermore, investing in young people by promoting healthy lifestyles, and guaranteeing access to equitable education and employment openings, access to health services and social security coverage can be regarded as the best investment to improve the lives of future older generations. ILO global policy frameworks stress the Interrelationship between nature of employment and social protection: “the full economic and social growth potential of a society cannot be realized if people are not benefiting from a social protection floor and by the same token, social security schemes cannot be financed without a sound economic and employment base”. When the ageing process is related to the second demographic dividend, economically, people often move into higher-paying jobs and countries experience higher per capita income and thus social and economic changes motivate people to accumulate greater personal wealth.

### **Second Demographic Dividend: *Reaping the Benefits of Population Ageing***

All countries are expected to move from a situation of high fertility and high mortality to a situation of low fertility and low mortality through a process known as demographic transition. Although different countries in the Asia-Pacific region are currently at different stages of this transition, all of them will eventually arrive at a point where there are growing numbers of older people and a larger share of the population above the age of 65, of which a higher proportion will be women. In particular, these challenges will also require appraisal and restructuring of social welfare arrangements. In Sri Lanka, proportion of elderly population (age 60 years and above) in 2012 was 12.4 but it would probably increase to 22.1 by 2037. According to the standard projection based on my calculations, the elderly population will increase in the future in an extraordinary manner. In

2012, the number of older persons was 2,520,573 and it is expected to increase this to 5,118,094 in 2037, which is 103 percent increase during 25 years time period.

Declines in the proportion of population ascribed to “children” and increase of the proportion ascribed to “elderly” are inevitable. In general, this situation will gradually disappear in the Asia-Pacific region, however, as the older population continues to grow rapidly while the younger age groups have started to decline. This clearly demonstrates a changing trend from youth dependency to older dependency. The working age population will also decline toward the middle of this century because of population ageing.

One prominent aspect of the ageing process is the progressive demographic ageing within the older population itself. In this scenario, the oldest of the old (people aged 85 or over) will also grow faster in the future than any younger segments of the older population. For example, it is expected that there will be a 257.2 percent increase in those aged 80 years and over yet there will be a 14 percent decline in the child population between 2014 and 2050. Therefore, one of the major challenges in the region will be ensuring appropriate healthcare to the growing oldest-of-the-old population, who are living longer than ever before. The growth of this population group will also have considerable implications for social protection schemes, over longer period of time, such as increased cost of healthcare due to increase in the non-communicable diseases; and existence of multi-generational families (which can have financial and emotional pressures on the working people). The oldest-of-the-old will also have the highest level of disability that requires long-term care.

### **Well-being of elderly women: *An important Aspect to be Urgently Attended***

As it increases, the ageing population will also “feminize”. In 2014, all of the older age groups were already feminized and this trend will continue into the future. In the region in 2014, there were 151 million older men and 181 million women above the age of 65. In 2050, the region will have 409 million older men and 487 million older women. This will occur as the excess of women, which was 30 million in 2014, increases to 78 million by 2050. Feminization of the elderly in the North and Central Asia sub-region is significantly higher, for example, than all other sub-regions. There were already about 217 elderly women per 100 men in North and Central Asia in 2014; 132 women per 100 men in South-East Asia; 113 women per 100 men in both South and South-West Asia and East and North-East Asia; and 116 women per 100 men in the Pacific. All sub-regions appear to show this increase of the female proportions as age advances by accumulating more and more females at higher ages mainly due to the higher life expectancy among women. This will naturally cause there to be, more widows, as well, and these women will be financially dependent on others because of their lower labour force participation during their working age coupled with less savings and lack of access to contributory pension schemes. Employment figures do tend to support this trend as well. The South and South-West Asia sub-region, reported the lowest employment sex ratio, 36.5 women per 100 men aged 15-64, compared to all other sub-regions, which together exhibit more than 70 women per 100 men aged 15-64. This is largely due to the lower ratios recorded for Afghanistan (17.6), Iran (20.3), Pakistan (25.6), India (33.7), Turkey (41) and Sri Lanka (46). And although many of these countries are not currently encountering population ageing issues like some countries in the East and North-East Asia and South-East Asia, elderly women in these countries in the future will find it hard to bear age-related expenses and may become impoverished.

## **Support education and decent work for women**

Low fertility can mean more women in the work force when equal opportunities are available for them to gain the skills necessary. Where labour force participation for women is low, this is closely associated with a low level of education for them. Barriers to female education often include negative social and cultural attitudes, lack of positive reception of the value of female education, burden of household work, and long journeys to school, all of which work against them. And even after completing formal education, many young people, especially young women, encounter barriers to their transition from school to work. One positive example, meanwhile, would be Singapore, where more females and older residents have joined the labour force, lifting the labour force participation rate to a new high of 66.7% in 2013. Thus, an enhanced status for women with increased labour force participation will diminish the intergenerational dependence since labour income can improve their economic independence. Gradually it will improve women's old-age security too. For this, it will be essential to improve girls' access to education and skills to enhance their employability for decent jobs.

## **Discrepancy between Health and Survival**

Raising healthy life expectancy can be done by adopting policies related to morbidity compression and close the gap in the sex differential of life expectancy by identifying causes for these differences specific to each culture. Life expectancy after age 60 has been increasing in recent years, but do older persons live those extended years in good health? It is one thing to add years, and another to add 'life to the added life years'. It is thus essential to have national policy for prevention and control of chronic non-communicable diseases. This would be aimed at promoting health and well-being by preventing chronic, non-communicable diseases associated with shared modifiable risk factors. Included in this would be acute and integrated long-term care for people with non-communicable diseases, maximizing their quality of life. Comparative survival probabilities of men and women also suggest that women live longer than men, and improving men's health would require a better understanding of men's health seeking behaviours and the social determinants surrounding them.

It appears that there are significant sex differences in health and survival in Sri Lanka. This remarkable discrepancy between the health and survival of the sexes perhaps due to so-called male-female health-survival paradox. The male-female health-survival paradox is the phenomenon witnessed in modern human societies by women having superior longevity but experience higher rates of disability and poorer health than men. These explanations may be due to multiple causes that contain fundamental biological differences between men and women such as genetic factors, immune system responses, hormones, and disease patterns. Behavioral dissimilarities such as risk-taking and reluctance to search for and realize with medical treatment may also play a part. Another dimension is that part of the difference may be due to data defects arising from selective non-participation and under-reporting of health problems, and delayed health seeking behaviour by men.

Total life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are major measures of the health status of population. The healthy life expectancy measure adds a 'quality of life' dimension to estimates of life expectancy by considering the time spent in different states of health. It is quite important to estimate the number of years of life spent in poor health because it has strong bearing on the demand for health and social care and the associated costs, especially when Sri Lanka is currently



experiencing a significant growth in its elderly population. I have recently computed the healthy life expectancy for Sri Lanka (the number of years lived in self-assessed good health) which showed that it is now 64.2 for males and 67.1 for females. However, proportion of life spent in disability-free state was 85.4 for women and 89.1 for men. This indicates that women spent more time in disability state compared to men. In other words, the majority of extra years of life among females were spent in poor health; females live 6.6 years longer than males, but only had 2.9 years longer in good health. Health risks are in transition due to various factors such as ageing owing to successes against infectious diseases and patterns of physical activity and food, alcohol and tobacco consumption are shifting. Sri Lanka currently encounters a double burden of increasing chronic, non-communicable conditions, as well as the resurgence of different types of communicable diseases such as dengue fever that affect not only the poor but entire nation. Therefore, investigation into the role of these risk factors is vital for formulating vibrant and effective strategies for improving health of the Sri Lankan population.

### ***Migration: A Key Enabler for Development***

Migration is recognized as an important component of population change. Migration is currently built-in to the global development framework, recognizing well-managed migration's integral role in and immense contribution to sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goals stimulate policy planning and implementation across countries, identifying the interrelationships between migration and development and the vital contributions of migrants. Migration provides a driving force for sustainable development through the effects of globalization. It decreases unemployment and enrich human capital. International migration has come to play a central role in the social, economic, and demographic dynamics of both immigrant-sending and immigrant-receiving countries. With the increasing migration trends, governments, non-governmental sector and private sector increasingly appreciate the relevance of migration to all aspects of sustainable development. Migration is normally recognized as a process which provides benefits to both sending and receiving areas. At the same time, it can also provide trade-offs and costs to migrants themselves, their families and societies. Furthermore, it also can create inequalities and vulnerabilities, particularly when access to regular migration opportunities is not open to everyone and when migration is forced to transpire in disastrous situations. In this context, it is particularly essential to protect, respect migrants' human rights because migrants, especially women who are low-skilled and those who are recognized as forced migrants are missed out from most of the national development policies.

During the recent past, international and internal migration has gradually been accepted as a constructive force for development, because migrants tend to transfer knowledge and skills to both receiving and origin locations, improve investments and remittances, and promote economic linkages and business opportunities between countries and regions. Sensibly accomplished migration can stimulate economic growth and innovation in destination locations, and poverty reduction in origin settings. Simultaneously, to some extent, migration can offset labour surpluses in sending countries, as well as receiving countries can manage their deficient labour markets. Connecting the opportunities that migration provides to sustainable development requires countries to create policy and related legal backgrounds that identify the patterns and drivers of migration, as well as the characteristics of migrants themselves.

In the absence of sufficient regular migration opportunities, migrants resort to irregular migration channels, which places them at risk during transit and upon arrival in countries of destination

Currently, the Asia Pacific region has about 8.4 million forcibly displaced people<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the region hosts one-third of the world's refugees, or approximately 3.5 million people. These migrants symbolize a "mixed flow". Some have migrated due to conflict and persecution in their countries of origin and others have migrated for economic survival or for family reunion. Their migration is characterized by fear, danger (including of death), people smuggling, people trafficking, arrest and detention. And with the increasing movement of people around the globe, people smuggling and irregular migration, particularly irregular maritime arrivals, cause enduring challenges.

The human desire to seek decent employment and livelihoods is at the core of the migration development nexus. As more and more people cross borders for employment opportunities in the future, international migration policies that protect the rights of migrant workers will be essential in achieving economic growth. It is essential, then, for governments to pass labour migration policy that supports more equitable development. The focus should be on the needs of the working men and women who generate the benefits of development and who support their families in communities in countries of origin and destination.

## **Conclusion**

Policy planners must accommodate population evolution into their policy planning, especially within the context of medium and long-term policy perspectives. Population is an asset that societies must utilize to its maximum potential. To nurture and enhance that asset, people's physical well-being must be improved through better nutrition, health care, and so on. Education policies must be put forward to help them become more capable and innovative, skillful, and productive. At the same time, these have to be achieved through access to and participation in the processes of sustainable development as envisioned by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Correct understanding of population changes taking place in the region will help parliamentarians and governments alike to integrate population dynamics into planning and implementation of development initiatives in all sectors at both national and sub-national levels. It is expected such an effort will create a unique opportunity to tackle key issues in order to bring about necessary legislative reforms or to adopt appropriate policy frameworks. Sustainable development means safeguarding the well-being of present and future generations. Yet sustained social development, which includes the reduction of poverty, growth in living standards and improvements in well-being, cannot progress without being linked to economic development, which is characterized by an increase in the production of goods and services. That then raises questions of environmental change, as increased production and its associated processes involve a transformation as well as degradation and depletion of natural resources. Social, economic and environmental processes are thus strongly intertwined with population growth and with changes in age structure and spatial distribution of people, making a proper understanding of the population dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region central to any development agenda. Parliamentarians have an important role to play here. They are the highest legislative and policymaking body in any country, are best positioned to champion population issues, and are concerned about rapid population changes and its impact on national economy and sustainability, on social structures, and more prominently on the welfare of individuals and families.

Thank You Very Much

**12<sup>th</sup> AFPPD General Assembly**

**“Engaging Parliamentarians, Pursuing Human Development”**

**7-9 October 2017**

**Keynote Remarks by  
Arthur Erken, Director,  
Division for Communication and Strategic Partnerships**

Excellencies,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Esteemed Guests

Ladies and Gentleman

It is my honor to address the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD).

On behalf of UNFPA, I want to thank Professor Takemi, and all of you members of Parliament who are part of the AFPPD, for your leadership and commitment in promoting population and reproductive health issues in your countries, both at regional and global levels.

I would also like to thank the Government of Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their steadfast political and financial support and for ensuring that strong parliamentary engagement for the implementation of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) remains a priority.

Our special thanks also go to the Government of Sri Lanka for hosting and the Sri Lankan Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Sustainable Development for co-organizing the AFPPD 12th General Assembly.

Last but not least, I would like to thank also all stakeholders and partners - ministers and other government officials, NGO representatives, and UN agencies who have joined for this important meeting.

Since its formation, the AFPPD has played a critical role in raising awareness of population issues, engaging parliamentarians to champion the ICPD, and supporting the global parliamentary movement in support of the mandate. Globally, parliamentarians have played a crucial role in advocating for the sexual and reproductive health and rights of the people, and in particular

those who are the most marginalized. You have consistently remained a vital component of the advancement of the ICPD by making laws to promote and protect these rights, mobilizing funds needed to implement the laws, and creating enabling environments to meet people's needs.

These laws have also advanced gender equality and women's empowerment. And as we are all aware, the benefits of improved sexual and reproductive health care extend far beyond health and cost savings. The broader and longer-term benefits extend to women, their partners and their families, as well as to the broader society.

We have seen significant progress in the decades since Cairo. Global health, including sexual and reproductive health, has improved considerably. Life expectancy has increased in almost all countries. Maternal deaths worldwide have fallen by almost half.

But despite this overall progress, too many people, particularly the poor, still live without access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning.

In fact, one third of the world's burden of disease for women between the ages of 15 and 44 years is related to poor sexual and reproductive health. Too many women continue to have more children than they would prefer to have.

An estimated 225 million women in developing countries who want to avoid pregnancy are not using an effective contraceptive method. Adolescent childbearing has declined, but is still high in many countries. Young adolescents are increasingly more vulnerable, and face a higher risk of complications and death as a result of pregnancy than other women.

Every year, some 300,000 women still die during pregnancy and childbirth – the second leading cause of death among women of reproductive age. Growing inequalities and structural barriers, both within and between countries, are leaving far too many behind.

It is also an unfortunate reality that the increasing number and scope of conflicts and humanitarian disasters around the world today continues to exacerbate these inequalities and hit women and girls hardest. Every day,

more than 500 women and adolescent girls die during pregnancy and childbirth in crises and conflicts, and many more are subjected to gender-based violence.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In the face of all these global development challenges, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents a comprehensive, integrated and universal approach that recognizes that we can't just focus on individual problems in isolation. We need to work together and develop cross-cutting, innovative solutions in order to create truly transformative change.

The development agenda calls on us to leave no one behind and to start with those furthest behind. As we know, all too often that means women and girls. Achieving this bold agenda will depend significantly on how well the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and young people are fulfilled. Catering to their unmet need for family planning is among the most cost-effective investments overall.



Parliaments not only have a role to play in promoting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Agenda 2030, under Goal 16 (*Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*), also requires them to pay special attention to their own institutional development, reflecting that democratic governance is not only an end in itself, but also a means to sustainable development, peace and justice.

This includes ensuring effectiveness, accountability and transparency in the work of parliaments themselves, and contributing to responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. For example, parliaments can work with their national statistics authority to develop indicators that reflect their own priorities in support of Goal 16.

As we collectively work towards attaining the SDGs, we at UNFPA will specifically focus on SDG 3 – that outlines targets on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning; reducing maternal deaths; and ending the AIDS epidemic.

And additionally we will focus on SDG 5 that includes targets on ending discrimination against women and girls, gender-based violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices. These issues are inextricably interlinked.

The stubborn persistence of human rights violations like gender-based violence, discrimination and child marriage is a manifestation of gender inequality and the low status of women and girls in many countries.

We must tackle all of these issues together – everywhere – and that is what the 2030 Agenda aims to do.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNFPA has just adopted a new Strategic Plan for 2018-2021, the first of three strategic plans paving the way to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Plan pledges to leave no one behind and calls for greater coherence, integration, inclusive partnerships, and innovation placing more emphasis on mobilizing resources, marshaling greater political support, and

broadening partnerships in a complex, challenging and constantly changing environment.

Our new Strategic Plan builds on UNFPA's strengths and comparative advantage in sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, adolescents and youth, and population data for development.

It's accompanied by our three transformative, people-centred results – zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths and zero harmful practices and gender based violence which will ensure that we have a rallying cry for advocacy, communication, partnerships and resource mobilization.

As parliamentarians, you have the power to meet the goal of ending the unmet demand for family planning by allocating and appropriating amounts to ensure adequate funding for contraceptives in your national budgets. This is vital if we are to end unmet demand. No money, no commodities and no programmes to provide voluntary family planning.

You have the might to provide funds to end preventable maternal death. Further, with this power of the purse, you also have the capacity to make executive branches of government to implement crucial supportive programmes to improving maternal health.

Finally, with the same capacities you can use with the first two goals, you could apply the same change tools or weapons at your disposal to help end the third goal: ending gender-based violence and harmful practices by 2030. This agenda will save and transform the lives of women and girls, and hence will transform families, communities and the world at large. Unless these three goals are being met, we cannot achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, Parliamentarians will become even more essential partners for UNFPA. Without your leadership, passion and commitment we will not be able to move forward in implementing the global promises of the ICPD and 2030 Agendas.

Your continued collaboration and partnership will be crucial as we begin working with countries to implement our newly adopted Strategic Plan.

As Parliamentarians, you have the power to make a real difference and I would like to assure you that UNFPA stands with you. Let us use this gathering to chart the way forward and make greater progress together.

Let us not forget the people that count on us. Let us not forget the most marginalized. The actions you as Parliamentarians take today, will have a real impact for our world tomorrow.

I thank you.



## AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Agenda Setting Session

MIKA MARUMOTO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ASIAN FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
7-8 OCTOBER 2017  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

1

AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (GA) is the **first GA** after  
the **Constitutional Amendments 2015**

- Clarified roles and obligations of the AFPPD Stakeholders, especially the role of the Standing Committees as providing strategic advice to AFPPD.
  - Four-year Strategic Cycle; Four-year term of office bearers.
  - General Assembly held every two years to conduct mid-term evaluations of Four-Year Strategic Plans
- **The 1<sup>st</sup> mid-term evaluation GA in the AFPPD history to review the status of the implementation of the AFPPD Strategic Plan**

2

## AFPPD's **Three** Guiding Documents

- ❑ **AFPPD Constitution** (Revised. October 2015)
  - Governance & Accountability Framework
  
- ❑ **AFPPD Strategic Plan 2016-2019**  
(October 2015; May 2017 Revised)
  - Results Chain and Accountability Framework
  
- ❑ AFPPD Standing Committees  
**Strategic Priorities Framework** (April 2016)

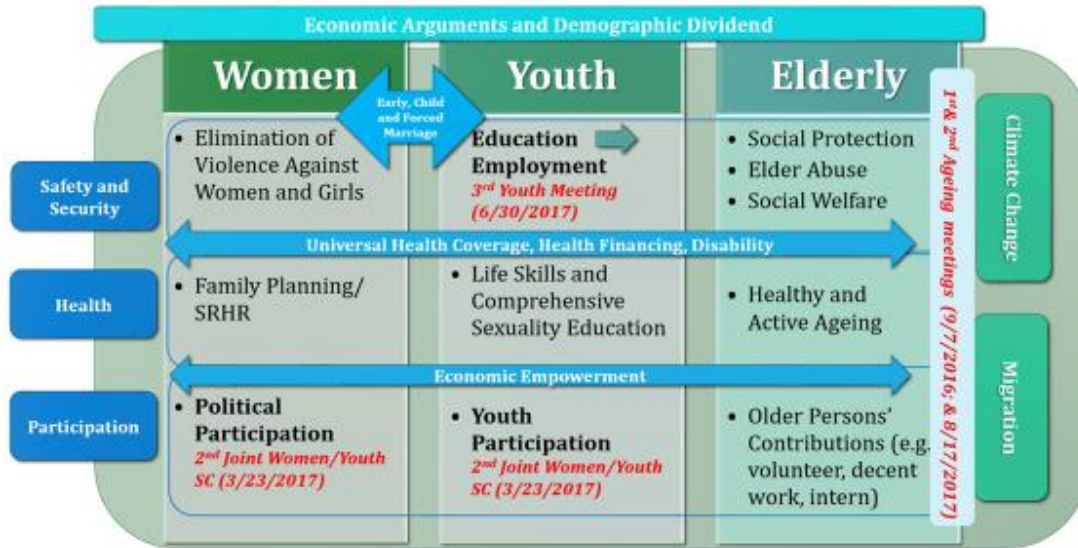
3

### AFPPD's Strategic Plan 2016-2019: Results Chain & Accountability Framework



4

## AFPPD Standing Committees and Strategic Priorities in 2016-2019



Note: AFPPD has three Standing Committees working on (1) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, (2) Investing in Youth, and (3) Active Ageing

5

## 3 Objectives of AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

- ❑ Critically review **AFPPD's mid-term progress** towards the expected strategic outcomes of the **Strategic Plan (2016-2019)**;
- ❑ Evaluate **improvements** made so far and **challenges** that remain, in strengthening AFPPD's good governance, operational transparency and accountability, in accordance with the **amended constitution (2015)**;
- ❑ Deliberate **ways forward** to work on **AFPPD strategic priority issues** in an effective, impactful, relevant, efficient and sustainable manner, for the remaining period of the Strategic Plan.

6



## 12th General Assembly (2017) Session Structure



## 3 Expected Results of the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

- Gain increased understanding and in-depth knowledge by all participating AFPPD stakeholders about **AFPPD's two guiding strategic frameworks** and the **amended constitution (2015)**
- Revisit, evaluate, and revise, if deemed necessary, the **Strategic Plan** and the **Standing Committees Strategic Priorities Framework**, as well as governance documents to enable AFPPD to deliver maximum impacts with limited resources, thereby improving its leveraging capability as a network of parliamentarians
- Agree on **intermediate goals** of each **Standing Committee** to work towards collectively as a regional network of parliamentarians, in the areas of selected issues of the Standing Committees Strategic Priorities Framework

## AFPPD's **Visions and Mission**

### **VISION 1:**

**Demographic changes and population issues are taken into account in planning for sustainable development**

### **VISION 2:**

**Women and girls have equal rights and opportunities, and can enjoy a safe, healthy and dignified life throughout their lives**

### **VISION 3:**

**All women and girls have access to sexual & reproductive health information, education and services, and can decide whether, when and how many to have children**

**MISSION** – AFPPD aims to realize its visions through **parliamentary work:**

- (1) Advance for and formulate/amend **policies and legislation** that promote AFPPD strategic priority issues;
- (2) Hold governments accountable for their related **commitments and implementation;**
- (3) Advocate for **increased budget and financial resources** in these areas

Source: AFPPD. (2015) *AFPPD Strategic Plan 2016-2019*.



## AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Agenda Setting Session

7-8 October 2017 | Colombo, Sri Lanka

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on population and development

1

### Standing Committee on **Active Ageing** Activities Update & Planned Activity 2016-2018

- \*2016:** Framework
- September 7: 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the SC - Completed & Approved the Strategic Framework
- **\*2017:**
- March 17-19: UNESCAP Expert Meeting, Nanjing (Participation) - **Completed**
- June 14-15: UNESCAP Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) 2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Review (Participation), Bangkok - **Completed**
- August 17: 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the SC, Ho Chi Minh City
- Back-to-back with the APEC Side Event – **Multistakeholder Forum - Completed**
- September 12-14: MIPAA Regional Review Meeting (Participation)
- October 7-8: Report to the **12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- December 4-5: **National Transfer Accounts Seminar** for SC Members, Chiang Mai
- **\*2018** (Proposed for the Executive Committee's approval):
- September or October: **Ageing Conference, Tehran** (w/ Govt. of Iran, HelpAge, UNFPA)

2

## Recommendations to the Executive Committee from AFPPD SC on Active Ageing

- **1. Evidence-based Policymaking on Ageing – demand-driven outcomes**
- **2. Human Resources in the Long-Term Care Sector – Harmonization of LTC**
- **3. Regional and Global Conventions on Rights for Older Persons**
- **4. Income Security for Older Persons:**
- **5. Parliamentarians Action including AFPPD's Follow-up Action:**
  - \* Adopt a multi-stakeholder national and regional approach.
  - \* Adopt more thematic workshops and conferences with experts.
  - \* Urge parliamentarians to develop a system of reporting to other MPs.
  - \* Evolve a strong mechanism to enable AFPPD to become a **knowledge center** for MPs.

3

## Standing Committee on **GEWE** Activities Update & Planned Activity 2016-2018

- **\* 2016:** March 23: 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Meeting of SC on GEWE and Investing in Youth  
Kathmandu, Nepal – **Completed & Approved the Strategic Framework**  
we approved **11 points Kathmandu declaration on ending of child marriage practice.**
  - According to declaration Nepal has made policy to end child marriage practice by 2030.
    - - **Nepal has amended on the marrying age from 18 to 20 + both sexes.**
- **\* 2017:** March 23: 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint SC Meeting on GEWE & Investing in Youth  
Bangkok, Thailand – **Completed**  
Today 6 October, we are here in the meeting to make future strategies and ways forward
- **October 7-8: Report to the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Colombo, Sri Lanka**
- **November 30: 3<sup>rd</sup> SC Meeting, GEWE**
- Back-to-back with 9th Asia-Pacific Conference on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (TBD)
- **\*2018** (Proposed for the Executive Committee's approval)
  - August 5-7: AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference + APEC Healthy Women and Healthy Economies Workshop, Papua New Guinea**

4

## Recommendations to the Executive Committee from AFPPD SC on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

- 1. Take up **gender-responsive budgeting** either as a theme of a dedicated workshop and/or a session of AFPPD's future meetings – (Nepal Experiences)
- We have formed Gender Responsive Budget Committee (GRBC) at the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to guide the system and give continuity to the process. It recommends the program as follows:
  - Women's participation in program formulation and implementation
  - Capacity building of women
  - Contribution to women's employment/income generation
  - Reduction in women's work load and qualitative improvement in their time use.
- 2. Plan **mock parliaments** for women by all AFPPD National Committees as action items for 2017-2019 BKK meeting recommendation
- 3. Create **knowledge exchange forums** on a **quota system** for women in politics and economics. (explain of Nepal....)
- 4. Raise the issue of the **Global Gag Rule** and consider Asia-Pacific parliamentarians' collective action (No...)
- 5. Plan and consider **inter-sub-regional learning and knowledge sharing sessions** on **common agenda** such as early, child and forced marriage

5

## Standing Committee on **Investing in Youth** Activities Update & Planned Activity 2016-2018

- **\* 2016: March 23:** 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Meeting of SC on GEWE and Investing in Youth – to end the child marriage need to mobilized youth force that is very influential.  
Kathmandu, Nepal – **Completed & Approved the Strategic Framework**
- **\* 2017: March 23:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint SC Meeting on GEWE & Investing in Youth  
Bangkok, Thailand - **Completed**
- **June 30:** 3<sup>rd</sup> SC on Investing in Youth, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
Theme was "Education for Employment." – **Completed**  
**- Education is the strong key factor to change the society.**
- **October 7-8:** Report to the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- **\*2018:** (Proposed for the Executive Committee's approval)  
**October 8-9: CA Sub-Regional Conference on Youth, Astana, Kazakhstan**

6

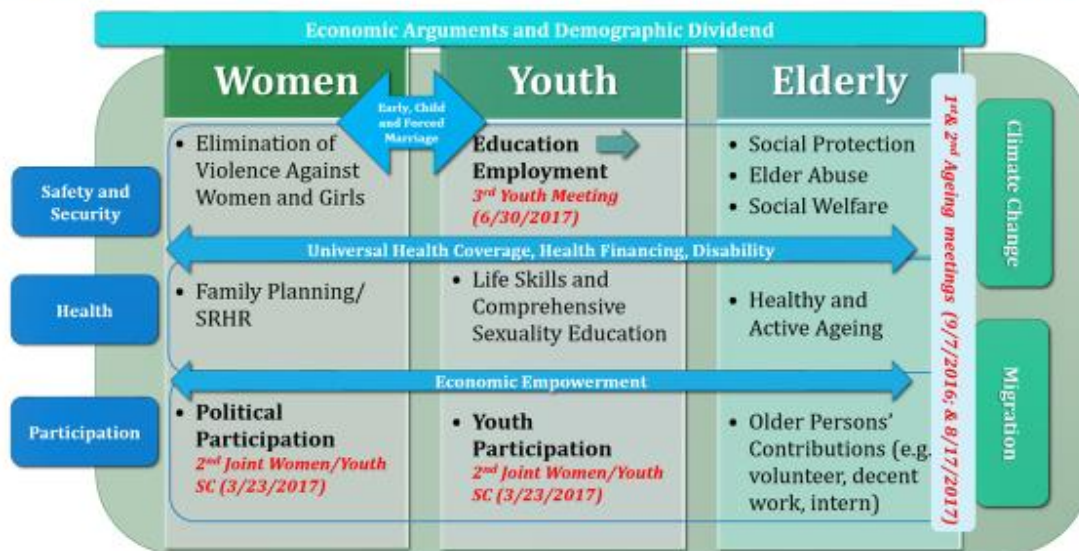


## Recommendations to the Executive Committee from AFPPD's SC on Investing in Youth

- 1. Undertake **budget analyses** for investing in youth
- 2a. Undertake **national level surveys** to match the demand and supply of jobs for youth
- 2b. Undertake initiatives for improving the **quality of vocational education**
- 3a. Incorporate **life skills education** into the curriculum, including **CSE** and **financial literacy**
- 3b. Organize a dedicated workshop/session on the issue of **substance abuse among youth**
- 3c. Partner with **AIPA Fact Finding Committee (AIFOCOM)** dedicated to combat the drug menace in the region
- 4a. Take up the **Colombo Process, Abu Dhabi Dialogue**, and migration issues during the 12<sup>th</sup> GA.
- 4b. Organize a dedicated workshop on the nexus between **climate change and migration**
- 5a. Organize a **mock parliament for youth**
- 5b. Advocate for the adoption of a **quota system** to enable more **youth participation in politics**

7

## AFPPD Standing Committees and Strategic Priorities in 2016-2019



8

## The Report on the Standing Committee on Active Ageing

Presented by Hon. Nguyen Hoang Mai

Ageing is no longer a national issue, but regional and global challenges that require international cooperation. The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee on Active Ageing in Hanoi, in September 2016. In 2017, AFPPD held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on the sidelines of the third APEC Senior Officials' Meeting in August 2017. This second meeting was organized taking into the recommendations of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. In total, 55 members of parliament from 22 AFPPD Members and APEC Member Economies attended the Standing Committee meeting in Ho Chi Minh city.

The main theme of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was community-based long-term care. Experts' presentations and reflections centered on three topics: first, evidence-based policymaking towards community-based long-term care for older people; second, regional commitments related to community-based integrated Long-term Care and human resources - comparative analysis of Long-term care worker certification pathways; and third, global movement toward a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

First, evidence-based policymaking for ageing population has become increasingly important for each country. **National ageing surveys** can serve as an important policy instrument to generate demand-driven policy outcomes and services to meet the needs of older persons and care providers. A small-scale survey conducted in Vietnam specifically for the AFPPD Standing Committee confirmed that the majority of older persons in Vietnam prefer to stay at home to receive long-term care services, particularly by family members. The survey also revealed preferred financing policies, including tax exemptions for care givers to incentivize good services and integrating long-term care into the care and social security system. Quality research and evidence is essential for generating expected policy outcomes

and tailoring needs-based programs. The Standing Committee recommended to the AFPPD Executive Committee yesterday that each national committee will take the initiative at the national level in supporting timely national ageing surveys for demand-driven policymaking.

Second, AFPPD Standing Committee confirmed that ageing is no longer a national issue. The **feasibility of international certification of care workers** and measures to harmonize different qualifications should be explored. At the Standing Committee, the experts presented the analysis of certification systems in selected countries, including Japan, Germany, US, and Singapore. We discussed the possibility that core components of care models can be harmonized across national borders. The first step is to review generic skills and basic competencies at the bottom of the pyramid-shaped model of long-term care to seek areas of harmonization. The Standing Committee recommended that national training standards and tiered approach to long-term care training should be developed to ensure the quality of care work and confidence in care workers.

In order to enhance the positive circulation of care workers across national boundaries in addressing the shortage of long-term care workers in the region, **cross-border collaboration** is critically important. This includes reviewing immigration procedures and examining existing long-term care certification pathways and models. The Standing Committee shared good practices and promising developments on regional cooperation on care worker training such as APEC, ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, and Economic Partnership Agreement.

Third, ageing has become a global issue. There has been a **global movement toward a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons**. However, the deprivation of older people's dignity due to the lack of long-term care is not adequately provided for in international human rights law. Long-term care



should be provided for individuals to maintain a level of functional ability so that they can live independently and have dignified lives. More specifically, a right to long-term care can be recognized such that older people have the right to affordable, person-centered long-term care services in different settings. Older persons' continued participation in the community is essential and the right to personal and family relationships. Yet, there is a significant lack of long-term care services in the region and worldwide in this regard.

The 9th Session of the UN Open-ended Working Group next year will consider the rights to autonomy, independence, and long-term care. This will be an opportunity for AFPPD as a regional network of parliamentarians to demonstrate collective political will and take concerted action. The AFPPD Executive Committee also approved last night that the AFPPD Standing Committee on Active Ageing will be held in Iran next year, back-to-back the international ageing conference in cooperation with the Social Commission of Iran.

The Standing Committee meeting was concluded with our shared understanding.

*“The challenge of ageing is not a long life but a long life in good health. Parliamentarians play a catalytic and powerful role in tackling the challenges posed by population ageing.”*



Parliamentary  
Group on  
Population and  
Development



## Australia

Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development

**AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

**National Committee Reporting Session**

7-8 October 2017  
Colombo, Sri Lanka



## APGPD's National Capacity Building Efforts

Australia's White Paper  
for Foreign Policy

**APGPD Consultation and Submission**  
Value of Australia's aid program  
Support for family planning and  
reproductive health

Briefings for Parliamentarians

- Sustainable Development Goals
- Commission on Status of Women
- Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
  - Water for Women
  - UNFPA

Slide # 1

## APGPD

# National Capacity Building in Partnerships Building and Political Influence

### Civil Society Organisations

CSOs have been invited to present and engage with the APGPD

- Australian Council for International Development
- IWDA
- CARE Australia
- Marie Stopes International
- IPPF
- Equality Rights Alliance

### Proposed Modern Slavery legislation

APGPD members engaging in debate on the establishment of modern slavery legislation to ensure Australian businesses are taking action against slavery in supply chains

Slide # 2

## APGPD

# Three Major Achievements 2016-2017 related to AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework

### Achievement 1: SRHR resources

Recent Government commitments: \$30m over 4 years for expanded services in Pacific (with UNFPA)  
\$9.5m over 3 years for IPPF - SPRINT

### Achievement 2: Launch of Australia's report on CSW61

Profiling work on women's economic empowerment, ending violence against women, and Indigenous women's empowerment

### Achievement 3: Ambassador for Women and Girls

Former APGPD Chair appointed as Ambassador to ensure gender equality is central to Australia's foreign policy

Slide # 3

## APGPD Planned Work & Contribution (2018-2019) related to AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework

### SDGs engagement

Increased awareness  
and engagement  
among  
parliamentarians

Outcome of VNR – 2018

### SRHR funding

Continued investment in  
SRHR through the  
Australian foreign aid  
program

Outcome of Federal  
Budget - 2018

### Asia Pacific engagement and awareness

Highlight priority issues  
and pathways for women  
and girls in the AP region

Outcome of increased  
dialogue within parliament

Expected contribution to AFPPD Strategy and Regional/Global Common Goals

MOV = Means of Verification.

Slide # 4

## APGPD Conclusions & Suggestions/Expectations toward AFPPD's work (2018-2019)

Thank you

Under strategies of gender equality and investing in youth  
and Kathmandu Declaration  
eradicating early and forced child marriage

Slide # 5



# New Zealand AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly National Committee Reporting Session

7-8 OCTOBER 2017  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

1

## New Zealand Parliamentarian's Group on Population and Development (NZPPD) National Capacity Building Efforts - 2017

### Parliamentary work:

- 1 submission to new Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade - ODA funding
- 3 media releases about NZPPD and ICPD events

### National Committee Secretariat staff's Capacity Building Efforts:

- 4 quarterly meetings
- 6 meetings with NZPPD chair
- 2 presentations by CSO
- 1 SDG forum
- 52+ posts to NZPPD Facebook groups
- Briefing to incoming government

Slide # 1

## NZPPD National Capacity Building in Partnerships Building and Political Influence

### Effective partnership building with Pacific Parliaments

- NZPPD co-hosted an Agenda 2030 workshop for 9 Pacific Parliaments.
- NZPPD 2015 Open Hearing Report disseminated to 25 Pacific Parliaments.

### Follow-up Actions by NZPPD? on political commitments made at the AFPPD Conferences in 2016-2017

- The Marriage (Court Consent to Marriage of Minors) Amendment Bill
- Encouraging young women to enter Parliament

Slide # 2

## NZPPD Three Major Achievements 2016-2017 related to AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework

### Achievement 1:

**Activity:**  
Report on engaging boys and men in SRH in the Pacific

**Results:**  
14 recommendations

**OVI:** Disseminated to 25 Pacific Parliaments

### Achievement 2:

**Activity:**  
Agenda 2030 workshop for Pacific Parliaments

**Results:** Increased knowledge and capacity

**OVI:**  
9 Pacific Parliaments  
+30 delegates

### Achievement 3:

**Activity:**  
SDG Forum

**Results:** Increased understanding of SDGs 3 and 5 and NZ's actions

**OVI:**  
13 participants incl NZPPD, govt agencies, NGO and secretariat

Shared with other AFPPD national committees: report from 2015 Open Hearing  
NZPPD's activities fulfil AFPPD Strategic Goals because they align with the ICPD and SDGs

OVI = Objectively Verifiable Indicators

Slide # 3

## **NZPPD** **Planned Work & Contribution (2018-2019) related to** **AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework**

- **New Zealand elections held on 23 September 2017**
- **NZPPD's planned activities decided after new committee established**
- **NZPPD's activities focus on SRHR, improving the status of women, sustainable development and official development assistance in the Pacific region**

MOV = Means of Verification.

**Slide # 4**

## **NZPPD** **Conclusions & Suggestions/Expectations** **toward AFPPD's work (2018-2019)**

- **NZPPD ensures New Zealand remains a strong donor, partner and leader on SRHR, gender and population issues in the Pacific, as well as a strong advocate at the international level.**
- **NZPPD secretariat is committed to working with Parliamentarians to ensure that the ICPD PoA, and SDGs are part of national plans, policies and programmes.**

### **Suggestions & expectations toward AFPPD on the remaining strategic period 2018-2019**

- **It is recommended that AFPPD schedules time for regional dialogue and collaboration at every meeting.**

**Slide # 5**



*PNG Parliamentary Group on Population & Sustainable  
Development (PNG PGPSD)*

## Safe Motherhood Alliance Papua New Guinea



## Safe Motherhood Alliance Papua New Guinea (SMALL)



- In Papua New Guinea the maternal mortality rate is 733 per 100,000 live births. That is an average of 1500 women and girls dying each year from complications associated with pregnancy and child birth. Thousands more suffer permanent damage to their health. The majority of these complications are preventable.
  - SMALL PNG encourages expanded communication and collaboration between and amongst civil society, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations and relevant non-government organizations to advocate for increased community accountability and demand for improved sexual, reproductive, child and maternal health outcomes.
  - SMALL PNG supports a common voice from these partnerships to reach their elected Parliamentarians' notice.
  - SMALL PNG advocates for these partnerships to work towards increasing the visibility of minority groups requiring sexual, reproductive, child and maternal health services.

SMALL PNG will share knowledge and foster learning about maternal health strategies and programs within the network and throughout the regional communities.

Advocate and promote evidence-based policies and legislation on sexual and reproductive health care policies, practices and services

Increase support for access to systems and services which enable women and men to improve their reproductive health care options

Introduction to Safe Motherhood Alliance PNG (SMALL)





## SMALL and PNG PGPSD



- The Parliamentary Group on Population and Sustainable Development (PGPSD) is the national body created to provide an immediate response to the rising population and development issues of Papua New Guinea (PNG).
- PNGPSD Committee meets on a quarterly or more basis
- Support the PNG Parliamentarian Group on Population and Sustainable Development (PPGPSD) by providing Secretariat support
- Engage members of the Papua New Guinea National Parliament and Provincial Assemblies in supporting and promoting women's human rights and empowerment
- Increase elected Members' knowledge and engagement in issues related to the Reproductive Health of their constituents

SMALL PNG RELATIONSHIP TO PGPSD



## Asia Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and PNG PGPSD



- Critical support to Parliamentarians in preparation for AFPPD conferences and field trips
- Establish PNG to have significant representation within the forum
- Driving Parliamentarians education and awareness of all AFPPD policy and initiatives:
  - Gender equality, Women's empowerment, sexual and reproductive health rights, sustainable aging, investing in youth, universal health coverage and sustainable development goals

Participation in AFPPD Events



## Asia Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and PNG PGPSD



Participation in AFPPD Event



## Current Political Situation



- PNG has a multi-party Westminster style of democracy, with fluidity in the make-up of parties and parliamentary allegiances.
- At the national level there are presently 33 ministries and over 140 government departments and agencies, some of which are duplicated at provincial and district levels.
- There is uneven governance capacity at provincial and district level across the country leading to some government institutions lacking resources, and politicians engaging in a parallel approach to service delivery as parliamentarians direct funding to their electorates, citing that the usual service delivery mechanism of the government is slow.
- According to The UNICEF 2016 Situation Analysis of Women and Children in PNG; PNG lacked three essential factors for effective service delivery in a decentralized system: **1) a lack of popular participation by people in development; 2) officials not trained to perform their duties at the local level; and 3) a lack of a governance system with clear roles, responsibilities and accountabilities, nor monitoring systems to track performance, use of funds or management.** The decentralized process assigns funds to districts and provinces, at the same time transferring to districts and local level governments the responsibility of adapting and implementing diverse national policy in education, child and maternal health, child protection



## Current Political Situation



- 2016 Economic crisis, caused by the rapid collapse of global commodity prices however, meant that the PNG Government faced difficulties in managing the delivery of public services, with the economic down turn disproportionately affecting health and education allocations.
- Civil society, including Faith Based Organizations play an important role in service delivery due to their ability to reach many geographically isolated areas.
- PNG's political party system is led by powerful individuals, and notably few women running as candidates, due to historical reasons around gender inequalities. There are at the moment, no women in parliament. Prior to the 2017 election, only three women had ever held seats in parliament. The 2012 Commonwealth election observation report stated: "The current system does not adequately fulfil women's right to equality in the political sphere." Personal allegiances and promises of political power have at times played a more substantive role than ideological or strategic political discourse. The electoral system allows members to be elected with small pluralities, and the socio-political dynamics within any given constituency are largely clan-based.



## Current Political Situation Post Election 2017



- General Elections in PNG were held from the 24<sup>th</sup> of June to 8<sup>th</sup> of July
- Due to successive campaigns by incumbent candidates and the democratic right for the people to choose a candidate by their own liking, most Parliamentary members did not retain their seats - <40%
- As a result the number of memberships within the PNGGPSD declined dramatically
- The only existing member representative to remain was Governor Muthival who has previously attended AFPPD conferences for Investing in Youth
- Therefore, a very important role for SMALL PNG and its Secretariat role now is to invite new Parliamentary Committee Members and develop the committee



## Way Forward SMALL PNG & PGPSD



### Intervention and Parliament Strengthening

- Re-vitalisation of enrolment of new Members for the Papua New Guinea Parliamentary Group on Population and Sustainable Development (PNG PGPSD)
- Selection of AFPPD standing committee chairpersons
- Establishment of the 2018 PNG PGPSD Action Plan.
- A workshop for the new Member on AFPPD – PGPPSD and their functions
- Phased workshops on awareness on SDG's and MDG's
- Establish workshops on education of MNCH (Maternal Nutrition and Child Health), Gender Based Violence, HIV/AIDS with participating NGOs



## Way Forward SMALL PNG & PGPSD



### Intervention and Parliament Strengthening

- Establish sub committees for the 3 AFPPD standing committees and identify champions
- Establish sub-committees (youth, aged, women empowerment/gender equality) to ensure functional 'task force' becomes a key driver to policy change
- Work closely with the AFPPD and PNG MP's to establish;
  - A mock parliament for women
  - A mock parliament for youth
- Work in collaboration with AFPPD and APEC to establish the "Healthy Women Healthy Economies" Initiative workshop for 2018



# [Afghanistan] AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly National Committee Reporting Session

7-8 OCTOBER 2017  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

1

## National Committee on Population and Development's National Capacity Building Efforts

### Good Practice Examples

- Parliamentary work:**
- Establishing the Afghanistan Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (APFPD)
  - Identifying 4 main priorities
    - Maternal Mortality
  - National Population Policy
  - Early and Child's Marriages
    - Girls' Education

### Good Practice Examples

**National Committee Secretariat staff's**  
Capacity Building and Awareness  
programs with the technical assistance  
of UNFPA.

Slide # 1



## National Committee on Population and Development **Three Major Achievements 2016-2017** related to AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework

### Achievement 1:

Activity: establishing a separate Parliamentary forum addressing population and development issues  
**Results: Achieved**  
Several meetings and workshops have been conducted.

### Achievement 2:

Activity: national population Policy  
**Results: Drafted**  
The draft of the policy has been sent to various stakeholders/ministries for their inputs.

### Achievement 3:

Activity: early child marriage strategy is designed  
**Results: Achieved**  
A proper mechanism should monitor the implementation of the strategy.

Lessons Learned or Shared with other AFPPD national committees?  
How have these activities contributed to the achievement of the AFPPD Strategic Goals and the SDGs?

OVI = Objectively Verifiable Indicators

Slide # 3

## [Insert NC Name's] **Planned Work & Contribution (2018-2019)** related to AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework

Planned work 1:  
Maternal Mortality  
**Expected Results: 3-4 years**

awareness programs, advocacy about the health issues.

Planned work 2: Girls education  
**Expected Results: 3-4 years**

awareness programs on the community level, support of community.

Planned work 3: Civil Law Amendment regarding the minimum age of girls when marrying  
**Expected Results: 2-3 years**

Awareness programs and role of religious scholars and communities.

Expected contribution to the AFPPD Strategy and the Regional/Global Common Goals

MOV = Means of Verification.

Slide # 4

## [National Committee's] **Conclusions & Suggestions/Expectations** toward AFPPD's work (2018-2019)

### **Conclusions**

- Afghanistan is facing challenges in terms of insecurity, law and order problems, corruption, cultural barriers and misinterpretation about Islamic teachings.
- We need to strive to solve the above mentioned problems both at policy designing and its implementation as well as making advocacy on the parliamentary forum.

### **Suggestions & expectations toward AFPPD on the remaining strategic period 2018-2019**

- We need the support of international community in terms of capacity building programs regarding the issues of human development.
- Member of APFPD to extend their full cooperation and active support.
- Advocacy for establishing National Population Council focusing on population and development relevant issues.
- Engage parliament on investing in young people.

**Slide # 5**

# AFPPD 12<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BANGLADESH NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT



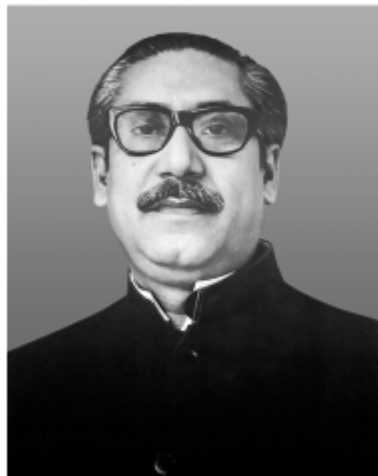
## PRESENTED BY BAPPD

[BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT]

Delegates: Prof. Dr. A.F.M. Ruhul Haque MP,  
Sanjida Khanam MP,  
Salina Begum MP



## History of Bangladesh



Independence on 16 Dec 1971  
with the Leadership of the  
Father of the Nation

**Bangabandhu**  
**Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**



## Development Picture

Bangladesh is improving surprisingly and has drawn the kind attention to the World with the Efficient Leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister and Daughter of Bangbandhu



Hon'ble Prime Minister  
**SHEIKH HASINA**

- Area 147570 Sq.Km
- Population 163 Millions
- Population Growth Rate 1.3%
- GDP Growth Rate >6% for last 6-7 Years
- Inflation <6% for last 5 Years
- Increase Export Growth Rate
- Increase Employment Rate
- Reduce Maternal Mortality
- Improve Health Service Facilities
- Increase Life Expectancy (73 Years) etc.

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



Hon'ble Leader of the  
House



Hon'ble Speaker



Hon'ble Leader of the  
Opposition

Deputy Leader of the  
House also an Woman



Mrs. Sajeda Chowdhury

## Good Practice Examples



### 1. Legislations

#### A. The Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017

- Age for Marriage Determined;
- Monitoring Committee Formed
- Birth Certificate is Compulsory
- Ensure Punishment for Child Marriage Organizers

#### B. National Youth Policy 2017

- Aims and Objectives Determined;
- Creating Skilled Manpower;
- Encourage Entrepreneurship;
- Action Plan Prepared;
- Introduced National Service Program.

### 2. Media Campaign

- Digital Boards, Cross-Drop Banners;
- Leaflets & Brochure on P & D Issues;

## Good Practice Examples



### 3. Community Engagement

Letters to all MPs, District Administrator and elected representatives. Marriage registrar, religious leaders, teachers, students, parents, social workers, NGO activists, local administration and politicians are engaged.

### 4. Training, Workshop, Seminar

National Committee Secretariat Staff's Capacity Building Efforts:

Arranged training & workshop for Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat officials & staffs to strengthen functional capacity and support to the parliamentarians.

## Good Practice Examples



GCPPD, 26-27 April 2016, Tokyo, Japan

### 5. Effective Partnership Building

BAPPD members visited several countries and foreign delegates came to Bangladesh to exchange knowledge and experience.

## Follow-up Actions



### 1. Government's Commitment:

- Eradicate Child Marriage by 2035

### 2. Government's Action:

- Compulsory Education From Five to Twelve
- Increased Investments for Quality Education
- Expand Secondary School Stipend Program

### 3. Commitment on GEWE:

Bangladesh Government is committed to ensure Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.

### 4. Bangkok Declaration (Human Trafficking):

- Finalizing and adopting the implementing rules for the 2012, Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act in 2017
- Drafted an Implementation Roadmap for 2015-2017 National Action Plan



## Achievements



### 1. Achievement\_1:

**Activity:** Enacted Laws and Rules

**Results:** Awareness build up, Services Improved, Fund Allocation and Monitoring Increased.

### 2. Achievement\_2:

**Activity:** Public Representatives (PRs) are Vocal on P & D issues, Letters send to all Stakeholders and Leaflets are distributed.

**Results:** P & D issues discussed in monthly coordination meeting, PRs are concerned about Child Marriage, People are going to union health clinics, Youths are now interested to SMEs.

### 3. Achievement\_3:

**Activity:** Campaign Awareness build up through TV Advertisements, Installations of Billboards and Kiosks in Important Places.

**Results:** Sensitized the Political Leaders & Common Peoples.

## Plan



### 1. Plan\_1:

**Activity:** Workshops, Policy Dialogues, Round Table, Conferences, Orientations etc.

**Target Group:** MPs, Policy Makers, Planners, Civil Societies, Officials and Key Stakeholders.

**Expected Result:** Increase Awareness on ICPD issues.

### 2. Plan\_2:

**Activity:** P & D and SDGs issues regular agenda by Parliamentary Standing Committee Meetings

**Target Group:** Standing Committees, National level Policy Makers, Lawyers and other Stakeholders.

**Expected Result:** Increase Advocacy on ICPD issues, Identify the weakness of law and rules and Collect suggestion for required amendment .

### 3. Plan\_3:

**Activity:** Awareness Program for Local Stakeholders

**Target Group:** Local level Policy Makers, Civil Society and other Stakeholders.

**Expected Result:** Mass people awareness will be increased about P & D issues. .

# Conclusion



6.2 Km long Padma Multipurpose Bridge, the dream of Bangladeshis, is visible now.

A visionary decision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister

## Expectation:

AFPPD will arrange regular meeting to share experience and knowledge for more contribution effectively on ICPD issues.

## Conclusion:

Bangladesh is optimistic to be a front runner in the South Asian Region for compulsory education, health facilities in root-level through community clinics and eradication of child marriage from the country. Bangladesh is rapidly advancing to avail the benefits of Demographic Dividend by its youth force as human resources.

## “ROHINGA” (ONE Million Approx) from Myanmar to BANGLADESH



AFPPD can look---

Health Issues: Maternity health, Child Birth, Widows & Orphans

Trafficking : Human Trafficking is going to increase



Mother of Humanity



# India

## AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly National Committee Reporting Session

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
(IAPPD)

7-8 OCTOBER 2017  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

1

### IAPPD's National Capacity Building Efforts

#### Parliamentary Work

- Hands-on engagement of Districts & States based ERs core elements of ICPD PoA (Legislative business, Resources & Enhanced Debates)
- Research capacities in analyzing Parliament Questions on Population, Health, Gender & Environment
- Capacity Building of National Leadership on SDGs
- Sustained Advocacy with ERs, CSOs, Policy & Media - through design & dissemination of substantive Newsletters

#### NC Staff Capacity Building

- National capacity building by AFPPD
- Technical Advisory Group (TAG)- Tech. Briefings
- Sponsoring "Advocates" (MPs) for capacity building both nationally and internationally
- Periodic sensitization of staff

Slide # 1

## IAPPD's National Capacity Building in Partnerships Building and Political Influence

### Partnerships

- Enhancing awareness/knowledge & capacity – AFPPD
- Sensitization on ICPD PoA - UNFPA
- Pulse Polio Programme - UNICEF
- National TB Eradication – The Union
- Capacity Building on SDGs – PFI/FPAI
- Maternal Health – White Ribbon Alliance of India (WRAI)/C3 India
- Govt. of India/MOH&FW & CSOs

### Follow-up Actions by the NC? on political commitments made at the AFPPD Conferences in 2016-2017

- Kathmandu Declaration (against marriage);
- GCPPD Declaration & Recommendation;
- Statement of Commitment on GEWE;
- Bangkok Declaration (against human trafficking).
- Ageing

Slide # 2

## IAPPD's Three Major Achievements 2016-2017 related to AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework

### Achievement 1:

**Activity:** Sensitization of select ERs on ICPD PoA (National, State & Districts) – SDGs

**Results:** Holistic SRH approach in Population & Health Policies; Integration of quality & accessibility parameters in the National Prog. Better sensitization

**OVI (data, evidence):** Policy in place; Resource partnerships for SRH managed – Advocates

### Achievement 2:

**Activity:** Blocks' & Districts' PRIs engaged with Polio eradication issues (high-risk areas) Mewat, West Bengal

**Results:** Child morbidity & mortality controlled; Enhanced community awareness on child immunization & sanitation issues

**OVI (data, evidence):** Percent decline in child mortality to 2.2, MMR to 167  
Increased in vaccinations and family health issues

### Achievement 3:

**Activity:**

**Maternal Health**

**Empowering Women**

**Institutional deliveries**

**Results:**

**Better Sensitization**

**Reproductive choices**

**Increase in use of different methods**

**OVI (data, evidence):**

**Advocates**

These activities have led to better engagement with and sensitization of ERs leading to raising issues on the floor of the house, better legislation, demand for better financial allocation and close monitoring of its implementation.

OVI = Objectively Verifiable Indicators

Slide # 3

## IAPPD's Planned Work & Contribution (2018-2019) related to AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework

**Planned work 1:**  
Advocacy on Ageing with Ministry  
- Policy intervention

**Expected Results:** Better  
Sensitization of ERs

**MOVs:** 20% increase in resources  
and pro-active policy for elderly,  
increase in old age homes about  
8% to total budget

**Planned work 2:**  
Conference with Women  
Parliamentarians in SDGs

**Expected Results:**  
Better Sensitization

**MOVs (how do you measure  
results?):**  
Advocates, participation in  
Parliamentary debate, mention in  
public speeches

**Planned work 3:**  
Workshops at Grassroots  
Level (5) in poor performing  
states

**Expected Results:**  
Better Sensitization

**MOVs (how do you measure  
results?):**  
Advocates, increase in  
medicines supply

**All these activities leads to the common goal of achieving and advancing the ICPD PoA and SDGs agenda through better understanding, better legislation, better financial allocation and better implementation of programmes.**

MOV = Means of Verification.

Slide # 4

## IAPPD's Conclusions & Suggestions/Expectations toward AFPPD's work (2018-2019)

### Conclusions

- IAPPD has helped immensely in sensitizing on ICPD PoA, MDGs, and SDGs agenda in India among Elected Representatives (ER) at National, State & District level. It has also built a team of "Advocates" among the ERs at three levels.
- These "advocates" help in planning, policy, arguing budget needs and implementation activities by taking up issues in the Parliament, State legislatures and district health committees.

### Suggestions

- IAPPD expects AFPPD to organise a Workshop in order to develop a framework of measurable indicators for the sensitization activities for Elected Representatives
- Build capacity of IAPPD's "advocates" on new emerging population and SDGs issues
- Workshop for National Committees to arrange financial resources to sustain their activities.

Slide # 5



**Roundtable with MPs: Improve Budget Allocation and Utilization for Maternal Health  
7<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2017 at New Delhi**



7

**Sensitization of ERs on Population, Gender imbalance and Reproductive and Child Health  
15<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2017 at Hathin (Haryana)**



8

**Sensitization of ERs on Population, Gender imbalance and Reproductive and Child Health  
18<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 at Ghumarwin (Himachal Pradesh)**



9

**Launch of Indian TB Caucus  
at New Delhi on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**



10

**One-day sensitization workshop of PRIs on Eradication of TB/Drug  
26<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at Nurpur (Himachal Pradesh)**



11

**Sensitization of ERs on Population, Gender imbalance and Reproductive and Child Health  
1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017 at Udaipur (Rajasthan)**



12





**Enhancing the Role of Parliamentarians in the Interlinkage between Population Issues and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Part III jointly organized by APDA & IAPPD**

**New Delhi on 13-15 Sept. 2017**





## National Forum of Parliamentarians on Population & Development (NFPPD), Nepal

Present by:  
NFPPD

### Established History of NFPPD

- **Guided from ICPD, 1994**
- Following AFPPD's principle and proper guidelines held consultations meetings with relevant stakeholders
- **Organized General meeting of MPs in collaboration with AFPPD, supported by UNFPA**
- With the major political parties' consensus NFPPD Nepal office established

## Activities

- Following the population dynamics and AFPPD's work plan, four sub-committees formed by NFPPD – Senior citizen welfare, Women, youth and local development
- Various seminars/symposiums/interactions organized related to different committees on Population & Development issues and SDGs from the NFPPD and working in collaboration with national/international organizations.
- Held consultation meetings with senior party leaders and government officials
- Organized international seminar on Child Marriage (Kathmandu Declaration)
- Following the declaration we, MPs visited highly child marriage practice districts and directed to local authorities including newly elected local representatives to enforce the existing laws effectively.
- Continue lobbying with government and other policy/lawmaking agencies including non-state actors

## National Capacity Building in Efforts

- Organizing capacity building of parliamentarians on SDGs to disseminating information focusing on (SDG-3 and 5) global goals and targets
- Conceding regular activities on SDGs related aspects with local governments involving local leaders, teachers, media, bureaucrats police, NGOs etc.
- Activities organized in collaboration and involvement of international issues on population and development

## Achievements

### Achievement 1:

Prepared organization information booklet and four policy briefs:

- a) Local Development and Accountable Governance b) Gender Equality and Women Empowerment c) Children & Youth and d) Senior Citizen & welfare)

### Achievement 2:

- **400 parliament members participated in various activities**
- Sensitization program was conducted in 11 districts in the issues of population & development, SDGs and Child marriage; Total 900 participants participated

### Achievement 3:

- **Effective outcome at the policy making and implementation level (active participation of MPs, Planning Commission and relevant government agencies)**

**(Activities & Annual report were shared with Government of Nepal, UNFPA Nepal, AFPPD and Other development partners)**

## Sustainability

- **Sustainability of the national level organizations need technical and financial support from the UN agencies, AFPPD and other organizations**

Thank you





# SRI LANKA AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly National Committee Reporting Session

7-8 OCTOBER 2017  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

1

## SRI LANKA National Capacity Building Efforts

### Good Practice Examples

1. Sticker campaign against on Elder Abuse
2. In order to Empower Women in Politics and Decision Making, 25% of Seats in the Local Government and Provincial Councils have been Allocated for Women through Amending the Local Government Election Act.
3. To Increase the Labourforce participation of Women and to Uplift their Economic Status; a decision has been taken by the Cabinet of Ministers to allocate at least 25% of total loans granted for Rural Economic Development Programmes, for Women.

### Good Practice Examples

1. Leadership Program at Kithulgala
2. Awareness program at Negombo

## SRI LANKA National Capacity Building in Partnerships Building and Political Influence

### Good Practice Examples

1. "Swashakthi" Self Employment Development Business Programme
2. "Yowun Puraya" – Livelihood Development Projects
3. NCD (Non Communicable Diseases) Prevention Programmes
4. 4 Days Programme - Inherit a Healthy Generation with Physical and Mental Equilibrium/ Balance and guide those who poses talents in sports as successful athletes
5. Empower and promote social , economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age and sex
6. Develop National Policy Frame Work and National Action Plan to address SGBV.

### Follow-up Actions by the NC? On

1. Prepared a Draft Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. Key Issues Addressed; Women Political Participation, GBV, Women's Leadership. National Center for Socio- Economic Empowerment of Widows and Women Headed Households- particularly in the conflict effected areas-, was Established at Kilinochchi, in Northern Province.
2. Devise an appropriate policy strategy to improve welfare of the elders who are living singly without a support from their spouse or children
3. Policies on Sexual Harassment against Women at Work Place.
4. Policy on Establishing a Gender Mainstreaming Mechanism.

## SRI LANKA Three Major Achievements 2016-2017 related to AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework

### Achievement 1:

**Activity: Core areas Addressed and Interventions**  
**Results: Personal Security Issues**  
**OVI:** Awareness Creation on Women's Safety and Self Defense, Sensitization of Police Officers and Grama Niladhari, Strengthening Women Participation in Community Policies.

### Achievement 2:

**Activity:** Position of Sri Lanka  
 According to the Global Youth Development Index and Report 2016  
**Results:** 2016 YDI Overall Score - 0.731  
**OVI:** 2016 YDI level-Very high

### Achievement 3:

**Activity:** Create a programme to improve the financial position of the elderly by devising special programm of income generating activities for the elderly.  
**Results: a revolving fund with an initial grant capital provided by the Government has been initiated.**

OVI = Objectively Verifiable Indicators

## SRI LANKA Planned Work & Contribution (2018-2019) related to AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework

### Planned work 1:

**Expected Results:**  
**Maintain and consolidate the achievements:** Infant Mortality Male 21/1000, / Female 16/1000 Life Expectancy Male 68.8 Female 77.6

### Planned work 2:

**Expected Results: Maintain demographic achievements:**  
Children (<15y) 25.2%  
Elderly (60+) 12.4%,  
University entrants (2015) Male 37.9, Female 62.1

### Planned work 3:

**Expected Results: Maintain demographic improvements achieved:**  
Maintain free medical provision for all; Increased geriatric care; Improve the provision of care for non communicable diseases.

Propagate results achieved so far Encourage low income member countries to emulate programmes initiated in Sri Lanka

MOV = Means of Verification.

## SRI LANKA Conclusions & Suggestions/Expectations toward AFPPD's work (2018-2019)

**Sri Lanka is a middle income country with better human development indicators. Sri Lanka may Many assist and share its low cost social capital development programmes with other low income member countries through AFPPD network**

**Improving conditions of population by strengthening the social welfare network and care giver programme 2018-2019**



# КАЗАХСТАН / KAZAKHSTAN

AFPPD 12 th General Assembly  
**National Committee Reporting Session**

7-8 OCTOBER 2017  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

## SOCIAL COUNCIL IN MAZHILIS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN National Capacity Building Efforts

### Parliamentary work:



The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On State Youth Policy"



The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Amendments and Additions to Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Social Security Matters"



The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Amendments and Additions to Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Pension Provisions"

### Governmental work of the Republic of Kazakhstan:



The concept of family and gender policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030

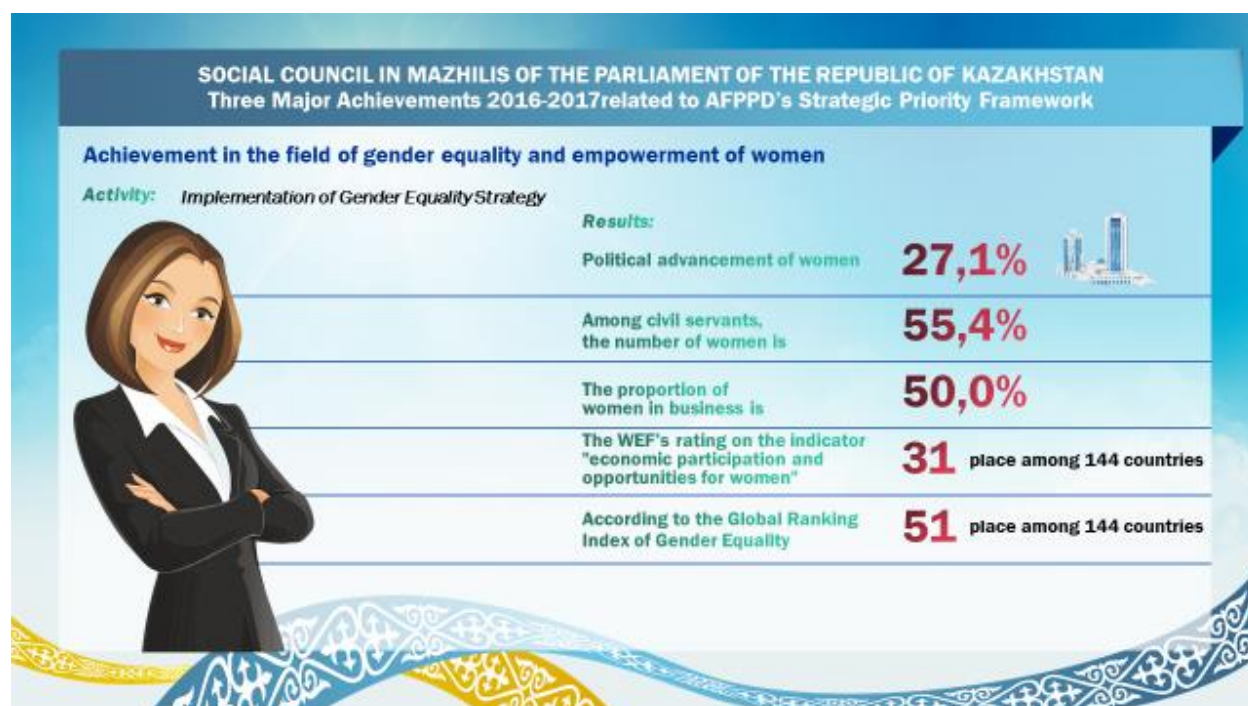
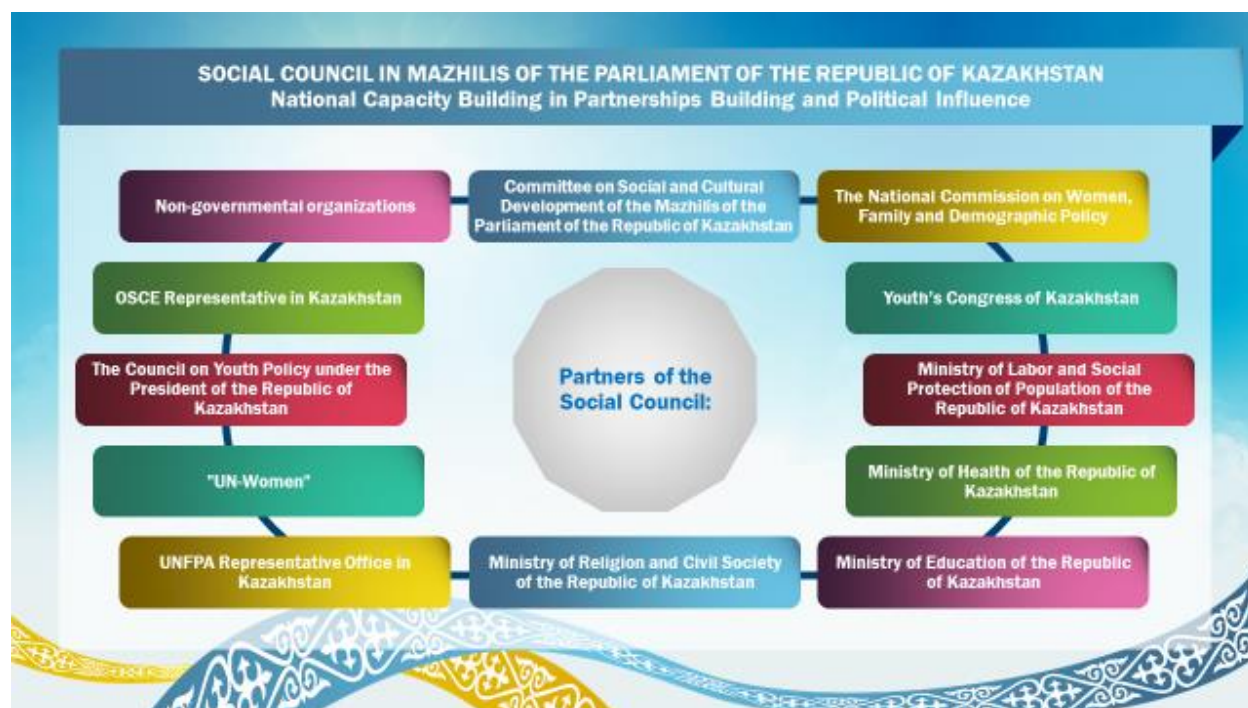


The State Health Development Program "Densaulyk" for 2016-2019 yy



The concept of social development of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030





**SOCIAL COUNCIL IN MAZHILIS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**  
 Три основных достижения 2016-2017 гг., связанные со стратегической стратегией приоритетов АФПНР

**Achievement in the field of investment in youth**

**Activity:**

The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On State Youth Policy" was adopted

The first stage of the "Concept of the State Youth Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2020" was implemented



**Result:**

The Global Youth Development Index of the World Economic Forum

**61** place among 183 countries

**Achievement in the field of active ageing**

**Activity:**

Topic "On issues of active and productive ageing of the population" was considered at the meeting of the Social Council with the participation of the MPs of the Republic of Kazakhstan



**Result:**

Recommendations were sent to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan

**SOCIAL COUNCIL IN MAZHILIS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**  
 Planned Work & Contribution (2018-2019) related to AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework

Planned work in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment	Planned work in the field of investing in youth	Planned work in the field of active ageing
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Continue activities on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improvement of the country's legislation on gender equality.</li> <li>- Implementation of the Family and Gender Policy Concept in the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030</li> </ul>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Improvement of legislation on youth policy issues</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Improvement of legislation on active ageing</p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Organization of an international conference with the OSCE on the prevention of domestic violence in Kazakhstan</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Organization of an AFPPD's international conference "Investing in Youth" in Kazakhstan</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Initiation of the development of the National Action Plan for improving the quality of life of older persons</p>

1

To create a database bank of national positive practices for the implementation of the Strategic Priorities of AFPPD



2

Hold an AFPPD's conference on active ageing







**Отчет о работе Национального Комитета по  
народонаселению и развития при Маджлиси  
намояндагон Маджлиси Оли Республики Таджикистан  
к 12-й Генеральной Ассамблеи АФПНР (2016-2017гг)**

**Раджабова Лутфия Нусратовна,  
Председатель Комитета Маджлиси намояндагон Маджлиси Оли  
Республики Таджикистан по науке, образованию, культуре и  
молодежной политики**

**6-9 октября 2017, Коломбо, Шри-Ланка**



**Национальный Комитет по народонаселению и  
развития при Маджлиси намояндагон Маджлиси  
Оли Республики Таджикистан**



**УВАЖАЕМЫЕ ДАМЫ И ГОСПОДА,  
ВЫСОКАЯ ДЕЛЕГАЦИЯ!**

Для меня большая честь находиться в этой прекрасной стране, в городе - Коломбо и хочу поблагодарить Парламент и Правительство Шри-Ланки за теплый приём и гостеприимство, а руководство Азиатского Форума Парламентариев по народонаселению и развития (АФПНР) за прекрасную организацию данного мероприятия.

Также, пользуясь случаем, выражаю свою признательность за тесное и плодотворное сотрудничество Парламента и Правительство Республики Таджикистан с Азиатским Форумом Парламентариев по народонаселению и развитию (АФПНР) и надеюсь, что наша встреча даст новый импульс для развития дальнейших отношений.



**Национальный Комитет по народонаселению и  
развития при Маджлиси намояндагон Маджлиси  
Оли Республики Таджикистан**



Вот уже более двух десятилетий все страны мира руководствуются Планом действий Международной конференции по народонаселению и развитию (МКНР) и Целями Устойчивого Развития (ЦУР) для развития народонаселения и социального положения населения в общем.

Республика Таджикистан, как равноправный член мирового сообщества, подписала Декларацию Целей Устойчивого Развития. Несмотря на имеющиеся трудности, наша страна оптимистично настроена на достижение прогресса в данном направлении.

Парламент Республики Таджикистан придает исключительное значение Декларации Целям Устойчивого Развития, как имеющей большое стратегическое значение. Достижение Целей Декларации является судьбоносным и для нашей страны.



**Национальный Комитет по народонаселению и  
развития при Маджлиси намояндагон Маджлиси  
Оли Республики Таджикистан**



**Актуальные стратегии, политика и правовые инструменты**

Принята Национальная Стратегия Развития Республики Таджикистан на период до 2030 года. Данный документ подготовлен с учетом изменений, произошедших за последние годы в стране и мире, в особенности учтено влияние мирового финансового и экономического кризиса 2007-2009 годов на национальную экономику.

Также, при принятии Национальной Стратегии учтены международные обязательства Республики Таджикистан по Повестке дня на XXI век и Целям Устойчивого Развития (ЦУР), одобренные 70-й сессией Генеральной Ассамблеи ООН в сентябре 2015 года.

Основным фокусом ЦУР является концепция Устойчивого человеческого развития. Исходя из этого, полное искоренение бедности, смена неустойчивых и продвижение устойчивых моделей потребления и производства, также защита и рациональное использование природных ресурсов в целях дальнейшего экономического и социального развития, являются главными задачами и жизненно важными условиями Устойчивого человеческого развития.





**Национальный Комитет по народонаселению и  
развития при Маджлиси намояндагон Маджлиси  
Оли Республики Таджикистан**



### **Актуальные стратегии, политика и правовые инструменты**

Принята Программа среднесрочного развития Республики Таджикистан на период 2016-2020гг. Данная Программа определяет цели, приоритеты, задачи и направления действий для перехода на модель нового качественного экономического роста, основу которого составляют эффективные институциональные механизмы, позволяющие привлекать больше инвестиций в реальный сектор экономики и инфраструктуру.

В Таджикистане принят первый в истории страны Кодекс здравоохранения. Принятый Кодекс заменил 16 ранее принятых законов Таджикистана, регулирующие общественные отношения в области здравоохранения и направлен на реализацию конституционных прав граждан и охрану здоровья.



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Стоит отметить, что семья, как социально-правовое явление, составляет основную ячейку общества, и на уровне Конституции страны для её защиты, а также для охвата матери и ребенка особой заботой государства Правительством страны принимаются все должные меры.

Ввиду этого возникла необходимость - с учётом защиты прав и законных интересов ребёнка - внести дополнения и изменения об усыновлении и удочерении в Семейный кодекс.



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**Актуальные стратегии, политика и правовые инструменты**

В очередном Послании Президента Республики Таджикистан, Лидера нации Эмомали Рахмон Маджлиси Оли Республики Таджикистан, с учетом вклада молодежи в развитие общества и её активного участия в политической и экономической жизни страны, 2017 год объявлен в Республике Таджикистан Годом молодежи.

Правительство Таджикистана придает первостепенное значение вопросу поддержки женщин и девушек, превратило данный вопрос (эту инициативу) в один из важных направлений социальной политики государства. Правительством страны и всеми государственными органами и структурами приняты меры для установления квот и льгот для женщин и девушек на разных уровнях. С целью привлечения женщин и девушек к работе в учреждениях банковской системы, службы связи, занятости и других секторов услуг, центральные и местные государственные органы в дальнейшем будут приглашать на работу молодых девушек, талантливых и квалифицированных женщин, чтобы в данных структурах еще больше **усилился режим** и порядок работы.

В этом направлении действуют (осуществляется) ряд нормативных правовых актов, защищающих интересы девушек и женщин, создающих



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Приняты не менее 4 нормативно-правовых актов по механизмам государственных гарантий по созданию равных возможностей и обеспечению гендерного равенства в получении образования девушками и юношами, также повышению участия женщин в процессах принятия решений

Учитывая наличие гендерной политики в сторону большей уязвимости женщин, Правительство Республики Таджикистан осуществляет постоянную заботу в решении данных проблем. Это отражается как в национальном законодательстве, включая Конституцию, так и в активном участии Парламента и Правительства Республики Таджикистан в международных инициативах, включая подписание Пекинской Политической Платформы, а также ратификации Конвенции по ликвидации всех форм дискриминации против женщин.

Реализовывается «Стратегия активизации женщин Республики Таджикистан на период до 2020 года», «Государственная программа по предупреждению насилия в семье в Республике Таджикистан на 2014-2023 годы» и «Национальная программа по искоренению наихудших форм детского труда в Республике Таджикистан на 2015 - 2020 годы».





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### **Актуальные стратегии, политика и правовые инструменты**

Дети являются одним из приоритетных объектов внимания Правительства Республики Таджикистан - главной особенностью всех принятых Правительством программ и действий по улучшению благополучия детей является их ориентированность на получение высоких результатов по достижению Целей Устойчивого Развития. Вопросы благополучия детей находят отражение во многих действующих законах, принятых Парламентом и Правительством Республики Таджикистан. В Таджикистане, как и в других странах мира, брак в детском возрасте сурово наказывается.

С целью повышения роли женщин и девочек в обществе, внесены изменения в Семейный кодекс РТ: брачный возраст повышен до 18 лет, тем самым повысилась возможность девочек и девушек для получения образования и развития, также поставлен барьер к ранним бракам, беременностям и родам.

В целях заботы о будущем поколении, введено обязательное медицинское освидетельствование перед браком и запрет близкородственных браков.



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### **Актуальные стратегии, политика и правовые инструменты**

Родители ответственны за воспитание и обучение детей, а совершеннолетние и трудоспособные дети ответственны за уход и социальное обеспечение своих родителей.

Существует универсальный Закон РТ «О противодействии торговле людьми и оказании помощи жертвам торговли людьми». Закон описывает методы борьбы торговлей людьми, роли государственных субъектов, также статус потерпевшего, его права и социальное обеспечение, которым жертва может воспользоваться бесплатно.



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Национальный Комитет по народонаселению и развитию, созданный при парламенте РТ, ведет свою деятельность с 2014 года как социальный институт.

Национальный Комитет постепенно и успешно достигает поставленные задачи путем принятий соответствующих законов, члены комитета постоянно поднимают вопросы относительно стратегических приоритетов АФПНР. Комитет сотрудничает с различными организациями ООН таких как: UNFPA, АФПНР, USAID, UNICEF, GIZ, GAIN и ВОЗ, а также намерен и в дальнейшем сотрудничать с данными организациями.

В 2016-2017гг. Национальным Комитетом были успешно проведены мероприятия по следующим темам:

- «Демографические факторы - человеческое и экономическое развитие» 14.10.2016(семинар);
- «Ситуация и фактор рака молочной железы и шейки матки в РТ» 06.06.2016г. (семинар);
- «Укрепление координации между государственными органами, ответственными за регистрацию актов гражданского состояния и статистики естественного движения населения в Республике Таджикистан» 22.09.2017г. (конференция).



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По итогам семинаров приняты рекомендации Национального Комитета и официально разосланы для исполнения в соответствующие государственные органы, а также принятые рекомендации отображены в СМИ и официальном сайте парламента РТ.

Согласно решению Совета парламента ежегодно проводятся парламентарские слушания, где депутаты выступают и обсуждают вопросы касающиеся ЦУР и МКНР.





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Согласно рабочему плану на 2017-2018 гг. Национальный Комитет намерен:

- проводить просветительскую работу среди избирателей (по вопросам рака шейки матки);
- участвовать в различных мероприятиях организованными другими госструктурами;
- обсуждать итоги пилотного проекта по скринингу рака шейки матки и механизм реализации Закона РТ «Об адресной социальной помощи»;
- провести мониторинг исполнения Законов РТ «Об образовании взрослых» и «О предупреждения насилия в семье»;



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- проводить экспресс - оценку потребностей и пробелов в работе относительно обеспечения профессионального образования девочек;
- заслушать отчет Комитета по делам молодежи и спорта при Правительстве РТ по вопросу терроризма и привлечения молодежи к радикальным организациям;
- заслушать отчет Директора Агентства по статистике, определить основные стратегические направления относительно медико-демографических исследований;
- разработать, внедрить и провести мониторинг национального и регионального плана относительно реагирования на чрезвычайные ситуации и осведомленности уязвимых слоев населения действиями в чрезвычайных ситуациях.

Мы, парламентарии, будем и дальнейшем принимать законы, вносить изменения и дополнения в законы и политику наших стран следуя принципам соблюдения прав человека, увязывая их с вопросами народонаселения и развития, охраны здоровья женщин и детей, развитие молодежи и активного старения.





# Cambodia

## AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

### National Committee Reporting Session

7-8 OCTOBER 2017  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

## CAPPD's National Capacity Building Efforts

Raising awareness among networking parliamentarians, senior government officers, and commune council on women empowerment, elderly, health care, and youth participation in social and political platform

**Parliamentary work:**

- 1- Increase Budget allocations for Education, Women Affairs, Social Affairs, Youth and Rehabilitation
- 2- Oversight government's implementation on social protection, health care, labour policy, quality of education, and women empowerment,

- 1- Consultative meeting with key stakeholders on GEWE
- 2- Roundtable discussion on Gender policy-Gender responsive budgeting

**National Committee Secretariat staff's Capacity Building Efforts:**

- 1- Disseminate updated information on Population and Development to the parliamentarians (advocacy's kit)
- 2- Networking with Development Partners and Line Ministries to sharing knowledge and bringing expertise to the parliament

Slide # 1

## Orang Day Campaign at the community

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3

## Women and Sport, Volunteer Youth and Doctor

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4

## Older Person Association in Phnom Penh



5

### **CAPPD's National Capacity Building in Partnerships Building and Political Influence**

- 1- Orange day campaign (stop violence against women and girls)
- 2- Forum on Education and Sports
- 3- Engage local women in homecare service for elderly and unhealthy children and promote women in politics
- 5- Promote women's health  
partnership building with MoWA, MoE, UN Women, CARE International, UNiTe, GIZ, EYE Care, Essilor, Hearing Aids Foundation, Medical relieve international, Reliv Kalogris foundation, Commune council

#### **follow up with the political commitments made at the AFPPD Conferences in 2016-2017**

- GCPPD Declaration & Recommendation;
- Statement of Commitment on GEWE;
- Bangkok Declaration (against human trafficking).

Slide # 2

## CAPPD's Three Major Achievements 2016-2017 related to AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework

### Achievement 1:

Activity: Establishing Older Person Associations (OPAs) in Chbar Ampov District, Phnom Penh (8 OPAs in 8 communes)

Results: members of OPAs are increased from 20 to 500 members in one commune. It is around 4000 members for the entire district.

### Achievement 2:

Activity: Improving elderly, women and children's health through women involvement in the community (home care service)

Results: community nutrition status has been improved

### Achievement 3:

Activity: Engage youth in social work, women's association, and elderly association through volunteer's work

Results: Youth has in-depth understanding on social and women issues as well as the policy to cope up with the issues

OVI = Objectively Verifiable Indicators

Slide # 3

## CAPPD's Planned Work & Contribution (2018-2019) related to AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework

Planned work 1: After the national election in 2018, CAPPD continues the previous activities to improve health care of elderly, women, and children  
Expected Results: Improved well-being of elderly, women and children

Planned work 2: Launch CAPPD website and cooperate with Research Department to produce research studies to share among MPs on population and development issues  
Expected Results: MPs are well informed on the emerging issues which could be used as evidence based for policy development.

Planned work 3: Engage youth in social activity, Promote education, life skill, politics and women empowerment

Expected Results: Promote education for all, gender equality, promote health care service, and women and youth in leadership,

MOV = Means of Verification.

Slide # 4

## **CAPPD**

### **Conclusions & Suggestions/Expectations toward AFPPD's work (2018-2019)**

1- Through advocacy, CAPPD's member have influence networking parliamentarians to reconsider on allocating more national budget to promote health care and education for all, gender equality, social wellbeing, and decent work

2- Effective partnership among line ministries, NGOs and key stakeholders to promote gender equality and women empowerment, and health care in the community

3- Achieve some positive results in promoting health care, women empowerment, and youth participation in politics

1- Looking forward to collaborate with key stakeholders to improve health of elderly, women and children

2- Promoting economic empowerment and social protection for women and elderly at the community

3- Engaging youth in social works, and promote quality for

**Slide # 5**

## **Report**

The explosive population growth is a considerable obstacle to social and economic development in developing societies. With this realization, a group of Japanese Parliamentarians led by former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi went on an inspection tour in 1973, focusing on the population situation in Asian nations. It struck the group that Japanese international cooperation in the field of population, which had the potential of impeding the peaceful development of humanity, was significantly lagging behind other governments of developed countries. As a result of the inspection, a group of Japanese Parliamentarians deeply concerned about the potential crisis of food and resources mainly related to the population issue and in 1974, that a group of Japanese parliamentarians established the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JFPF), the world's first non-partisan parliamentary group working on population and development issues, under the conviction that sustainable development cannot be achieved without addressing population issues.

The population issue can never be forced. The resolution of the population issue requires elected representatives of the people to be actively engaged in formulating and implementing population policies and programmes. JFPF, in close cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and other relevant organizations, promotes a number of programmes including exchanges among parliamentary groups in the field of population and development, dispatching survey missions to various countries, and taking prominent roles in international conferences on population and development.

### **Domestic Activities**

At the national level, JFPF holds general assembly meetings and executive members' meetings, and its committees meet according to their topics of interest. The committees invite experts to engage them in discussions on a chosen theme, in order to deepen understanding on population issues. JFPF makes policy recommendations to ministries and agencies on the importance of global population issues and supports the governmental contribution to alleviate population issues. It has Committees on International Cooperation, domestic measures, gender issues, global issues, food security. JFPF/APDA considers the food security as an important issue to be widely covered. One of the recent events, within Japan the JFPF/APDA together with Syngenta Japan and other interested institutions (including companies) held the food security meetings (in 2016 and 2017).

### **International activities**

It is worth to mention the active role of JFPF members in the major international events related to the population and development. From the beginning, the JFPF took a leading role at the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) that met in conjunction with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt in 1994. At this ICPPD, a forum of parliamentarians on population and development for the African and Arab regions was established as a result of the successful encouragement of JFPF.

These days, the members of JFPF continue their participation at the international conferences on population and development. JFPF members have been participating at the meetings and events organized by its Secretariat, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) as well as



events organized by other respectful institutions, such as the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD).

JFPF sends a study mission to selected countries. The purpose is to inspect field activities of organizations such as UNFPA, IPPF, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in order to review the progress and find disincentive to achieve population and development projects. Then JFPF often recommends improving the effectiveness of cooperation and assistance. The study visits also contribute to the strengthening of bilateral cooperative relations and revitalization of parliamentarians' activities through exchanges with host government officials and legislative counterparts.

### **Secretariat of JFPF**

As its Secretariat, APDA supports JFPF and is in charge of the daily affairs of office. Additionally, it organizes the General Assemblies, Executive Members' meetings and committee meetings. In close partnership with international organizations JFPF is actively engaged in deepening the understanding of parliamentarians' activities on population and development through exchange with parliamentary groups that are addressing population and development issues throughout the world, and their participation in field visits and many related international conferences.

### **Parliamentarian Study Visit**

APDA sends Japanese and Asian parliamentarians overseas to observe projects conducted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japanese Government. Similarly, parliamentarians from selected countries are invited to Japan to visit facilities in areas such as population and development, health and medical care. Through exchange between parliamentarians from Japan and other countries, the programme aims to strengthen cooperation and promote parliamentarians' engagement in the field of population and development. JFPF members were participating in the recent projects, such as in several African countries (Uganda (2013), Zambia (2014), Kenya (2015), Ethiopia (2016)) focusing on capacity building, transparency, accountability and good governance as well as the achievements of SDGs. Members of JFPF presented their vision of achieving the Sustainable Development during the Asian and African parliamentarians meeting in New Delhi, in September of this year. From 2017, APDA started new project with Arab Forum, where JFPF members have an opportunity to interact with their colleagues from Arab region. In July 2017 the first meeting was held in Jordan.

In conclusion, we would like to thank organizers and host side for this opportunity, and we ensure cooperation between JFPF/APDA and parliamentary institutions of other countries and region for the sake of the global sustainability.



**[Insert Country Name]**  
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**PLCPD's National Capacity Building Efforts**

**Parliamentary work:**

1. Drafting and filing of new and amendment bills at the national and local levels of policymaking on the following:
  - Scaling-up Nutrition during the first 1000 days of life; food and nutrition security; expanding maternity protection (SDG2)
  - Universal Health Care; Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy; Access of Minors to HIV testing and related services (SDG 3)
  - Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict and from Internal Displacement (SDG 8)
  - Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (SDG 16)
2. Monitoring of implementation, including government-level budget advocacy intervention to increase funding for services using the Costed Implementation Plan, commodities and human resources budget for the RPRH law
3. On-going legal review process and oversight of the RPRH Law towards its sunset review in December 2017
4. Active utilization of various quad-media
5. Mobilization of stakeholders during different activities including in advocacy with the Supreme Court on the TRO of some modern FP methods

## **PLCPD's National Capacity Building Efforts**

### **National Committee Secretariat staff's Capacity Building Efforts**

PLCPD as member of the National Implementation team of the RPRH Law led the conduct of the following:

1. Multi-stakeholder national dialogue on the challenges in the implementation of RPRH Law
2. Learning session on adolescent reproductive health and teenage pregnancy
3. Policy forum on implementation updates among government agencies

PLCPD, as Convener of Child Rights Network, facilitated the knowledge and skills building activities on the following:

1. Learning session on civil registration and vital statistics
2. Issue discussion on child, early and forced marriage and violence against women and girls
3. Policy advocacy workshop on child, early and forced marriage; violence against women and girls and amendment to the Code of Muslim Personal Laws
4. Policy advocacy workshop on the prevention of online and commercial sexual abuse of children

Presentation at Sri Lanka วันที่ ๑

National Committee past 2 yrs achievements

Thailand established the Standing Committee of Public Health of the National Assembly 3 years ago. We have included population and development in the mission statement.

Dr. Mika has attended the meetings of the Standing Committee to explain about the objectives of AFPPD and the issues being addressed under the forum.

We have also invited Prof Takemi to meet with the Speaker of Parliament and discuss these issues.

Two years ago we held the GA in Bangkok and the Speaker of Parliament spoke at the Opening Session. On behalf of the members of parliament of Thailand I have participated in a number of AFPPD meetings such as the Women Deliver in Copenhagen, IPCC in Sweden.

Some of the main achievements of the Standing Committee on Public Health during this period are:

1. the passing of Law on Prevention and Remedial Measures for Adolescent Pregnancy which I along with 54 MPs introduced and successfully passed the Bill. The main objective is to provide Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and protect adolescent girls in school.

We have also adopted the Anti-Tobacco Law, making Thailand one of the countries in the forefront in addressing this issue

The third achievement is the Law to Prevent Marketing of Infant Formula Milk , and are promoting exclusive breastfeeding.

The main mission of the Standing Committee has been to provide UHC and addressing issues of the elderly population.

I would like to inform that Thailand has provided UHC from 2002 to all people. But there are challenges of insufficient government budgets and the quality of services.

Prof Takemi put UHC in the declaration of the GCPPD in 2016 . Prof Takemi has recognized that UHC is a global problem and ensured its inclusion in the G7 declaration.

The Thailand Standing Committee on Public Health has set up a sub committee on the elderly for studying and solving the problems of the elderly. The outcome is that the Constitution of Thailand has provided the family doctor to take care especially of the homebound and bedbound patients.

Last week the House has passed the Bill in the first reading about paying monthly allowance to the poor elderly in addition to the universal monthly allowance of all elderly. Thank you.





# VIET NAM AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly National Committee Reporting Session

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COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

## The Viet Nam PCSA National Capacity Building Efforts

### Parliamentary work:

**Legislation:** Assessment Gender equity mainstreaming in about 30 draft laws before submitting to the Plenary Session of the NA.

**Supervising:** supervising activities at the grassroots levels; at Government ministries and agencies; Assessment on Government reports and legal documents and through public opinion, voter's views and the mass -media...

**Budget allocation:** Examination annual budget allocation for social issues and health care.

**Advocacy work:** Workshop, Meeting, research, publication, update information on social issues, including gender, population, youth issues on NA, PCSA, Women MP Group website

**Staff capacity building:** Giving chances to staff to attend international and domestic trainings on ageing, gender equality and so on; joining in the consultative meetings on related bills on social issues.

Slide # 1

## VAPPD

### National Capacity Building in Partnerships Building and Political Influence

Close relationship with UN organizations (UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNICEF), ILO, Worldbank and domestic NGOs... in the field of gender equality, the elderly and youth as well as other social issues

The Cooperation has contributed significantly to the implementation of multilateral and bilateral agreement, such as ICPC and SDGs; and to the specific works of the NA.

#### Follow-up Actions by the PCSA on political commitments made at the AFPPD Conferences in 2016-2017

- Each delegation have a report on the result of the Conference and submit to the Standing Committee of the NA
- Recommendation obtained from the Conferences to be considered in legislation making.

## The Viet Nam PCSA

### Three Major Achievements 2016-2017 related to AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework

**Achievement 1:**  
**Activity: Advocacy in increase female MP proportion in the Parliament term 2016-2021**

**Results: The proportion of female MP of the National Assembly term 2016-2021 is 26.72% (2.62% over the previous term)**

**Achievement 2:**  
**Activity: Advocacy and recommendation to the Government to increase the availability of health center at grassroot level for the reproductive health care for youth**

**Results: The Government issues a Project on enhance the development of the health center at communal and district level to adapt new situation**

**Achievement 3:**  
**Activity: Advocacy for better development and implementation of policies and legislation on the elderly in line with aging in Viet Nam**

**Results: (1) The MOH promulgated the Project on health care for the elderly with a comprehensive view, enhanced care for the elderly in the community. Period 2017-2025 (2) The Law on elderly is consider to revised to meet the needs of aging situation**

These three of our main activities has contributed to the achievement of all 3 Strategic Goals of the AFPPD and the SDG 3, SDG 10, SDG 11

OVI = Objectively Verifiable Indicators

## The Viet Nam PCSA Planned Work & Contribution (2018-2019) related to AFPPD's Strategic Priority Framework

**Planned work 1: Assessment** the Bill on Population which'll be submitted to the Parliament in May 2018

**Expected Results:** A Comprehensive Law on population'll be adopted in November 2018

**MOVs :** The Law will have a stipulation that "Demographic changes and population issues are taken into account in planning for sustainable development"

**Planned work 2: Continue to** integrate gender equality issues in draft laws and ordinances.

**Expected Results:** Women and girls have equal rights and opportunities

**MOVs:** At least half of draft laws submitted to the Parliament will be assessed gender issues and recommended to be revised to mainstream gender issues

**Planned work 3: Supervising on** the implementation of population and health care policy, including health care for elderly

**Expected Results:** Through the supervisions, recommendations will be made to the MOH and MOLISA to enhance the quality and the availability of health care services

**MOVs :** The increasing number of elderly received good health care services.

These planned works is aimed to meet the needs of the society of Viet Nam and to contribute to the 3 VISIONs of AFPPD

## The Viet Nam PCSA Conclusions & Suggestions/Expectations toward AFPPD's work (2018-2019)

Thanks to participating to the AFPPD activities, MPs of Viet Nam have had chance to have further and comprehensive information on population and development issues of the Region. Also, MPs can exchange experience one another in legislation and in carrying out their mission.

MPs themselves should mobilize, study, internalize their commitments to implement AFPPD's strategic objectives, global and regional objectives for the common interest of asian pacific people.

AFPPD should be the focal point and the bridge for all Country Members in providing a comprehensive information on population and development and also sharing parliamentary skills. The "Briefing cards for Parliamentarians" is an example which should be done more frequent and with other topics.

## Healthy Women, Healthy Economies



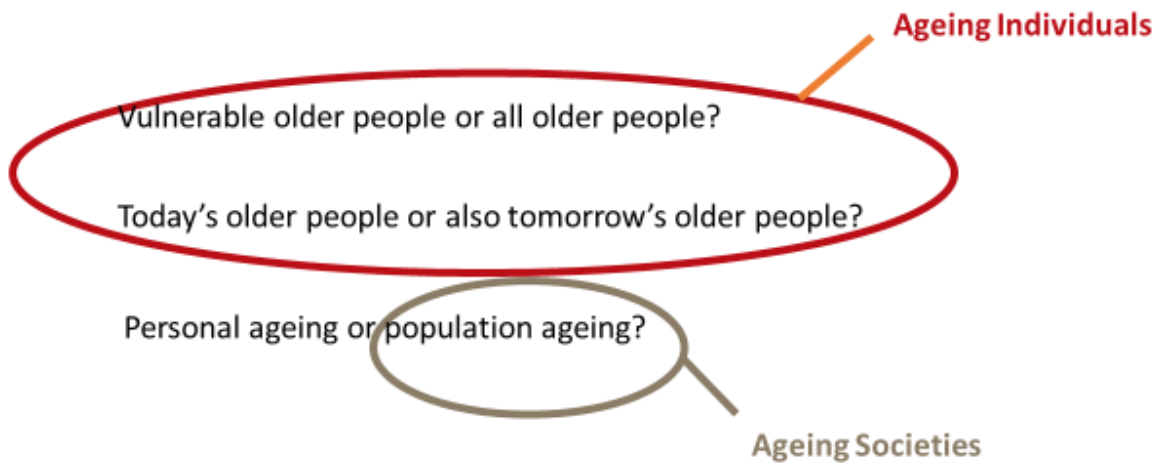
- **WHY:** Better health outcomes for women and girls lead to their greater economic participation, which leads to higher economic growth.
- **WHO:** A cross-fora partnership in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum involving health, women, and labor working groups and key private sector partner Merck KGaA.
- **HOW:** Business and government draw from the Toolkit's five focus areas to pilot, implement and scale up policies and changes in their workplace procedures.
- **WHAT:** Resources to support the implementation include information on "How to Make an Economic Case" "Monitor & Evaluation Framework" and more.

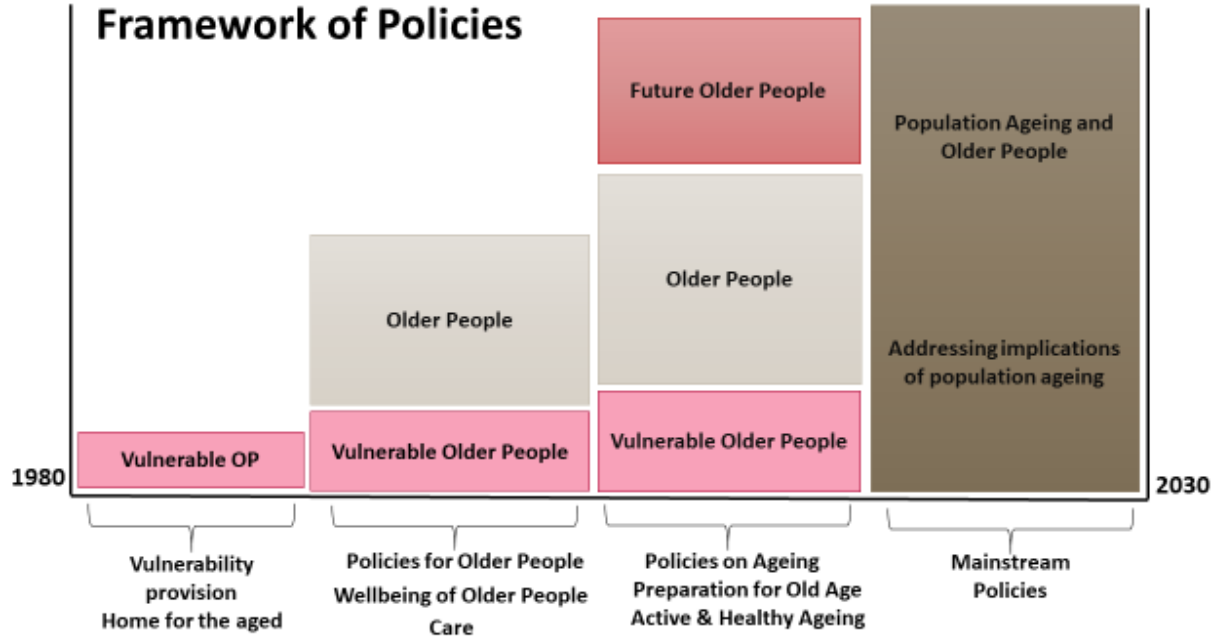
More information can be found at  
→ [healthywomen.apec.org](http://healthywomen.apec.org)

## Widening perspectives



The basic question: which older people?

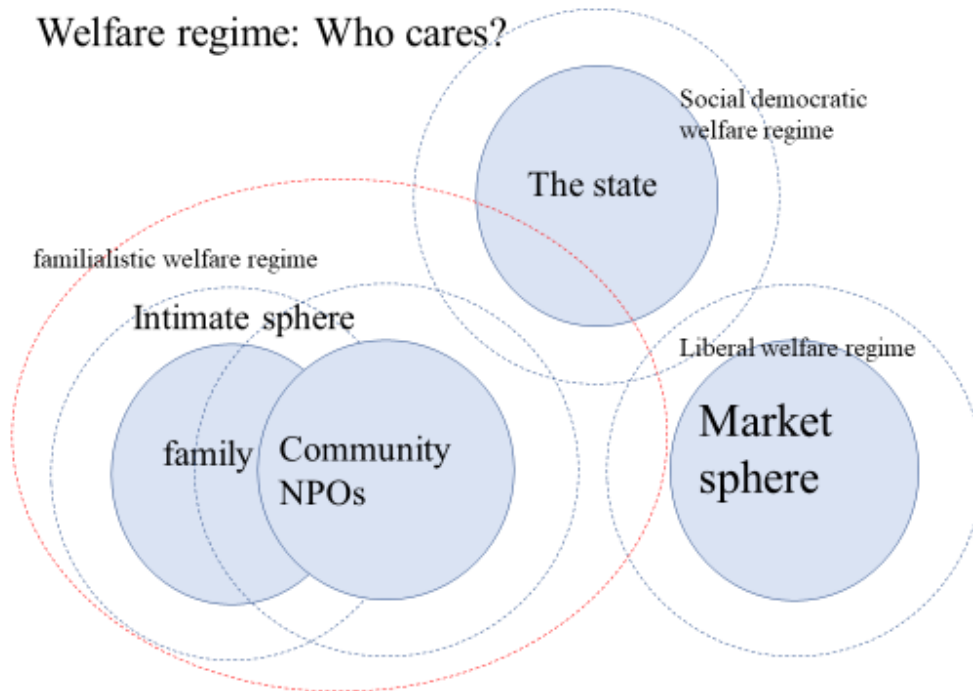






# Q&A ASATO Wako

Welfare regime: Who cares?



1<sup>st</sup> Round Question. Prof. Asato – sharing  
Policy Briefs from Hochiminh conference

- *Asian familism and its challenges: from experiences of Japan.*
- 1. Greater pressure particularly on women on care in an ageing process from **declining household members** makes it difficult carry out family care. (care pressure from sandwich)
- 2. **Urbanization and separation of family** members makes it difficult to physically take care of elder parents. Urban migration of elder parents from rural area often brings negative effects due to isolation.
- 3. **More care skills are required for healthy ageing to cope with** multiple chronic disease such as cancer, paralysis and/or dementia. More specialized care and **empowerment of informal care** would be needed.
  
- 5. Many family care providers are **not confident in care skills**. Proper skills may erase negative feeling on care.
- 6. **Physical, verbal, financial abuse** against elder parents are on the rise. Proper family intervention is needed.
- 7. **family care is not available without family members**. Lone family after separation or death of a spouse or single elderly is on the rise.
- 8. many children quit job for care for elder parents.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Round Question. good practices of health workers, especially migrant health workers?*

- **social status and citizenship of migrants:** Taiwan considers domestic worker serving more than 10 years as high skilled worker therefore they are allowed to stay in Taiwan as long term residents.
- **empowerment for informal care provider:** Singapore provides subsidized training on elderly care for family members as well as migrant domestic worker.

Q2. migrant domestic/care worker issue

- **training for migrant care worker:** care worker under Economic Partnership Agreement in Japan can receive as long as one year language training supported by the government of Japan.
- **alleviation of debts:** Korean Employment Permit System and direct hiring system of Taiwan tried hard to alleviate recruitment cost, which often becomes a problem of indebted worker.
- however, I also have to mention, there are longstanding citizenship, gender, occupational challenges among women from sending countries in Asia.

3<sup>rd</sup> Round Question. *recommendations on possible study tour opportunities in Japan?*

- **Institution-to-home, medical-to-non-medical integrated care**
- Even though family care seems to be desirable, it may not guarantee proper skills and family pressure of care. Therefore, for the study tour, I would suggest **community care called small-scale and multipurpose care station** which has a home environment would be worthwhile visiting in Japan including care for the dementia.
- Institutional care which is not the mainstream of the elderly care in many Asian countries would be fruitful to visit to know how professionalized care is implemented. The professional care would lengthen our elderly in healthy condition.
-



## **Regional Parliamentarians' Conference on Combating Human Trafficking (Bangkok, March 2017)**

HON. TEDDY BRAWNER BAGUILAT

MP, PHILIPPINES

VICE CHAIRPERSON, AFPPD

CHAIRPERSON, PLCPD

### **Lessons learned**

- The magnitude of human trafficking in Asia is alarming wherein most victims are women, girls and children
- Need for multipronged and multi-sectoral approach as well as international cooperation on human trafficking

### **Good practices**

- ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP)
- Technological innovations
  - Repatriation Information Management System
  - IOMX: Communication for Development

## Contribution to achieving the common strategic goals of the national committees

- Campaign on elimination of violence against women and girls, specifically focusing on ending child, early and forced marriage)
- Continuing advocacy campaign on sexual reproductive health rights in preparation for the 5 year review of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law

- In celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child, PLCPD will conduct, "Too young, too soon: A multisectoral issue orientation on child, early and forced marriage"
- Conduct of forum on teenage pregnancy highlighting the need for comprehensive sexuality education

## Major Achievements of the Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking

### Topics covered:

- Overview of human trafficking
- Inter-governmental legal and policy frameworks
- Good practices to combat human trafficking

### Major achievement of conference:

Statement of Commitment to Combat Human Trafficking

### Action taken by the National Committee:

With support from AFPPD, PLCPD produced three videos on different aspects of the issue of human trafficking in the country.



## **Planned work and Contributions & Suggestions/Expectations toward AFPPD's work as Political Influencer (2018-2019)**

### **Planned work and expectations**

- Contribute to the evidence base and policy-making for the issue of child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and ending violence against women and girls
- Strengthen the campaign for family planning and SRHR especially on comprehensive sexuality education

### **Suggested areas**

- Issue of teenage pregnancy
- Technical assistance on policies for active ageing

## REFLECTIONS ON AFPPD-NZPPD SUB-REGIONAL EVENT - 2016

Tangata Vainerere  
Executive Director

Pacific Legislatures for Population and Governance (PLPG)

### AFPPD-NZPPD AGENDA 2030 WORKSHOP FOR PACIFIC PARLIAMENTS, 28-29 SEPTEMBER 2016

- ▶ **Theme:** *Prioritizing the ICPD Agenda in the SDGs*
- ▶ **Venue:** *Select Committee Room Two, Bowen House, New Zealand Parliament Buildings*
- ▶ **Participants:** *30+ MPs & Parliamentary Staff from 9 Pacific Parliaments*

## OBJECTIVES

1. To deepen Pacific Parliamentarians' knowledge on the Agenda 2030;
2. To improve and strengthen Pacific Parliamentarians' Advocacy skills;
3. To inform Pacific Parliamentarians of the role of the AFPPD as a coordinating body of regional parliamentarians.

## DISCOVERIES...

- ▶ **1.** SDGs adopted by World Leaders at UN Summit in New York, September 2015 – officially came into force on 1 January 2016 with 17 Goals = **2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**



## DISCOVERIES...

- ▶ 2. Achieving the SDGs requires the **partnership** of governments, private sector, civil society and citizens alike to make sure we leave a better planet for future generations.
- ▶ 3. The role of MPs - Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Declaration (**para 45**) states....
  - ▶ "We acknowledge the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments."
- ▶ 4. The SDGs Implementation requires **stronger parliamentarians commitment** than ever.

## EXCHANGING IDEAS GOOD PRACTICE MODEL

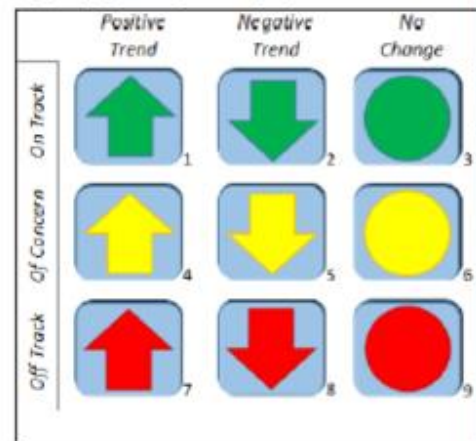
- ▶ **TE KAVEINGA NUI (THE GRAND COMPASS)** - COOK ISLANDS NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016-2020.



## TE KAVEINGA NUI – SPECIAL FEATURES

- ▶ **16 GOALS + 66 Indicators** based on the SDGs BUT **reflecting Cook Islands values and principles**
- ▶ **VISION** – To enjoy the highest quality of life consistent with the aspirations of our people, and in harmony with our culture and environment.
- ▶ **SMART IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY** –  
 Doubles as an integrated scorecard for development outlining Policy Statements; Outputs; Activities; Agencies; Resource Requirements and \$ Allocations.
- ▶ **MONITORING SYSTEM** adapted from the JP Knight 1868 UK Traffic Lights System.
- ▶ **HARMONISED REPORTING SYSTEM** – tailored to National, Regional (2X per yr) and Global requirements (Annually - 2019.)

Figure 7: Assessing our progress using a traffic light system; status and trend



## OUTCOMES...

1. Increased knowledge and understanding of participants, on **linkages between the ICPD and the Agenda 2030**;
2. Strengthened Pacific Parliaments' **institutional capacities to advocate for the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals** at the national level;
3. Increased knowledge of Pacific parliamentarians, including AFPPD associate members and non-member countries, on **the role of the AFPPD** as a coordinating body of regional parliamentarians in providing knowledge-sharing platforms at national, regional and global levels.





## **12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the AFPPD**

**Report on the Central Asian Sub-regional Conference of the AFPPD  
"Addressing the problems of vulnerable groups in Central Asia", Bishkek,  
June 28-29, 2017**

**Osmonbek Artykbaev, Kyrgyzstan**

**7-8 OCTOBER 2017  
COLOMBO, SRI-LANKA**





## Central Asian Sub-regional Conference of the AFPPD "Addressing the problems of vulnerable groups in Central Asia"



*On June 28-29, 2017, the Central Asian Sub-regional Conference of the AFPPD "Addressing the problems of vulnerable groups in Central Asia" was held in Bishkek. It was attended by the Parliamentarians and Heads of Executive Authorities of Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Nepal, the Philippines, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Sri Lanka. Among the attending dignitaries were the Speaker of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic Chynybai Tursunbekov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Cholpon Sultanbekova, Head of the Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sapar Isakov, Executive Director of the AFPPD Mika Marumoto, Ambassador of Japan in the Kyrgyz Republic Yamamura Yoshihiro, UNICEF representative in the Kyrgyz Republic Yukie Mokuo, Ministers of health, labor and social development, Representatives of International Organizations and Civil Society.*

## Report on the Central Asian Sub-regional Conference of the AFPPD "Addressing the problems of vulnerable groups in Central Asia"

### The objectives of the Conference were:

- Raising the awareness and the need for providing active aging, gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- Investment in the youth in accordance with international legal instruments adopted by the governments of Central Asia;
- Providing a platform for parliamentarians in order to share best practices to address the problems faced by vulnerable groups;
- Increase knowledge in addressing inequalities in health, ensure that women, youth and older people have equal access to quality health care in the region.

## Report on the Central Asian Sub-regional Conference of the AFPPD "Addressing the problems of vulnerable groups in Central Asia"

### **The Conference addressed the following major problems of vulnerable groups in Central Asia:**

- Ensuring the access of women, youth and the elderly people to quality health services;
- Active aging and strengthening of the functional capacities of the elderly people and their participation in economic and social life;
- Gender equality and empowerment of women;
- Investment in the youth;
- Country action plans for advocacy.

## Report on the Central Asian Sub-regional Conference of the AFPPD "Addressing the problems of vulnerable groups in Central Asia"

### **Concerning the Elderly People:**

Conduct the analysis of the adequacy of the laws of the Kyrgyz Republic, that are aimed at addressing the problems of the elderly people, with the international standards; analyze their implementation and work out the Active Aging Concept by the end of 2018.

- ❖ With the support from the AFPPD, the concept of active longevity in Kyrgyzstan is currently being developed;
- ❖ In 2016, the National Committee on Population and Development of the Parliamentarians of Kyrgyzstan has commissioned the Government of Kyrgyzstan to develop a National Program on the Elderly People.

**Outcome:** in September 2017, the Ministry of Labor and Social Development of Kyrgyzstan completed a large-scale study on the elderly people and began the development of the National Program on the Elderly People together with the National Committee, civil, business, academic sectors and international organizations.

## Report on the Central Asian Sub-regional Conference of the AFPPD "Addressing the problems of vulnerable groups in Central Asia"

### **Concerning the Healthcare (including the issues of women and girls):**

Develop until the end of July 2018 the Social Policy in the field of healthcare, aimed at improving the access of socially vulnerable segments of the population to quality medical care.

❖ Upon the initiative of the National Committee on Population and Development of the Parliamentarians of Kyrgyzstan, the issue of reforming the Healthcare System in Kyrgyzstan was submitted to the Committee on Social Issues of the Kyrgyz Parliament, which has issued its decision to the Government of Kyrgyzstan and commissioned it to develop a program for reforming the System of Public Healthcare and Social Development, while taking into account international experience and experience of previous reform programs of the healthcare system. The reform program, that will be submitted by the Government of Kyrgyzstan to the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan for consideration, must improve the accessibility and quality of Healthcare services for the population.

### **Concerning the Youth:**

Develop the Concept for the Development of the Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2040 before July 2018 (Revision of the Youth Policy)

## Report on the Central Asian Sub-regional Conference of the AFPPD "Addressing the problems of vulnerable groups in Central Asia"

The Conference was a forum for participating Parliamentarians, which has summed up activities in the areas identified in the Action Program of the International Conference on Population and Development, and it has discussed further ways to address new challenges in legislation and budgeting for the full implementation of the above-mentioned Action Program.

Parliamentarians and Heads of the Executive Authorities of Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Maldives of Nepal, the Philippines, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Sri Lanka noted that the exchange of experience at the Central Asian Sub-regional Conference of the AFPPD in Bishkek has provided many ideas to its participants. Among the proposed solutions, which were taken into account, were the ways of solving the problems of improving the Quality of Education, creating new Jobs for the Youth, organizing Benefits for Vulnerable Groups, strengthening Reproductive Health, and improving Care for the Elderly People.

As a result of the Conference, the Country Action Plans, addressing issues of vulnerable segments of the population, were developed.

Hon. Mr. Lakshman Senevirathne

Political Influence session

Hon Mr. Jigme Zangpo, Speaker of the Parliament of Bhutan

Hon Mr. Nguyen Hoang Mai, MP Vietnam Executive member, AFPPD

Excellences', Distinguish Members,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me take this opportunity to thank AFPPD for deciding to hold its 12<sup>th</sup> General assembly in Colombo Sri Lanka.

AFPPD efforts in Sri Lanka have been centered on re-establishing a National Committee on Population and Development since July 2016 by identifying dedicated members in the parliament to AFPPD activities. The Ministry of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage and the National Council for elders in Sri Lanka, setup under an Act of Parliament took the initiative to call an inter-ministerial meeting to form a parliamentarian's forum at National level. Thus the SLPPD was reestablished in parliament in October 2016. The SLPPD appointed Hon S B Dissanayake, Minister of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan heritage as its Chair and nominated him to the AFPPD and committee on active aging.

To formally launch SLPPD's national level activities an inception workshop in February 2016 was co-sponsored with AFPPD in Negambo, Sri Lanka. At the meeting of AFPPD in February at Nigambo Sri Lanka, it was revealed that the Asia-Pacific region is currently home to over half of the world's elderly population and is experiencing a rapid expansion of ageing population as a result of improved life expectancies and declining fertility rates. The number of elderly in the region is expected to triple from 438 million in 2010 to 1.26 billion in 2050. The second topic was gender equality and women's empowerment. The third topic covered by the workshop was investing in youth. At the conference it was revealed that Sri Lankan Parliamentarians under age 35 have consistently remained below 10 percent. Less than 2 percent of the young people in Sri Lanka are involved in any political party, and 90 percent are not involved in any decision-making at their workplace. Young people therefore need accurate information and quality services as well as increased support on how to engage in civic and political affairs.

Let me now turn to the progress achieved in the area of gender equity over the years in Sri Lanka. We introduced adult franchise for both men and women in early 1930. The equal access to free education



and health care to all citizens in the country. With the improvement of health services Sri Lanka reported an average sex ratio of 93.8% where there are 93.8% men for every 100 women in 2012. With high social achievements of women fertility rate has declined to 2.4 in 2011. Life expectancy at birth for males were 68.8 compared to women's 77.6 in 2012.

Sri Lanka introduced adult franchise in 1931. Both men and women above the age of 21 were qualified to participate in election process. The age limit of voting has reduced to 18 years of age in 1958. People elected their first women prime minister in 1960 and the first president in 1994. However women's participation as elected member in parliament has never exceeded 5% and in local government institution it was less than 3%. A recent amendment to the Local Government and Provincial council election laws allocated 25 percent of representation for women.

Sri Lanka is happy to share its achievements in the area of gender equity. With the improvement of health services Sri Lanka reported an average sex ratio of 93.8% where there are 93.8% men for every 100 women in 2012. With high social achievements of women fertility rate has declined to 2.4 in 2011. Life expectancy at birth for males were 68.8 compared to women's 77.6 in 2012.

Sri Lanka has reported the school enrollment ratio at grade one as 99 % where 50.8% of males and 49.2% females entered schools. However, at grade 12 the ratio changed to 43.4% males and 56.6% women in 2013. There are more girls in higher grades in schools than boys. Therefore the gender equity in education has been achieved.

As the longevity is increasing, Sri Lanka is strongly considering the possibility of increasing the age of retirement of public servants. We have increased the retirement age of public servants from 55 years to 60 years. However the retirement age of the judiciary service is 65 years and the same apply for the university staff. It has been proposed that the retirement age of the public servants too have to be increased to 65 years.

Sri Lanka is at cross roads and demographic condition in the country is changing fast. The size of the population in the age groups of 15-19 and 20-24 years have peaked in year 2001. In fact, 1.82 and 1.76 million youth enumerated in the age groups 15-19 and 20-24 age groups is noted to be the highest in volume compared to all other age groups. Increase in the volume of youth population age 15-29 years led to many implications in the formal education. Government is now in the process of providing more opportunities for technical education. The unemployment in Sri Lanka has reduced to 4.1 percent in 2017 and Sri Lanka is desired to focus more on promoting technical education with a aim to move young people out of agriculture and transfer them to technical employments to earn a better living.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all the delegates and visiting parliamentarians to the 12<sup>th</sup> General assembly. Let me also thank in particular to Mrs. Mika Marumoto, the Executive director of the AFPPD and the staff of the AFPPD for their excellent arrangements.

I wish you all a safe journey home.

Thank You



# AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Governance Session

7-8 OCTOBER 2017 | COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

DR. JETN SIRATHRANONT, SECRETARY GENERAL

ASIAN FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

1

## AFPPD's Strategic Plan 2016-2019: Results Chain & Accountability Framework



2



## AFPPD's Guiding Documents

- ❑ **AFPPD Constitution** (Revised. October 2015)
  - Governance & Accountability Framework
- ❑ *AFPPD's Operations, Human Resources, and Finance Manuals*
- ❑ *AFPPD Strategic Plan 2016-2019*  
(October 2015; May 2017 Revised)
  - Results Chain and Accountability Framework
- ❑ AFPPD Standing Committees  
**Strategic Priorities Framework** (April 2016)

3

### Strategy 4.1 Governance and Accountability: \* Implement the new governance accountability mechanisms and systems

*"During the Strategic Plan of 2012-2015, the AFPPD constitution has been revised and **financial, human resource and operational manuals** revised/finalized.*

*During 2016-2019, AFPPD will follow these rules and procedures and improve its **operational efficiency and transparency**.*

*The role of the **General Assembly, Executive Committee, Standing Committees, Secretariat and National Committees** will be clear and they will fulfill their responsibilities.*

*Ways to improve **women parliamentary representation and participation** will be considered.*

*By end of 2019, AFPPD will mature as a **more professionally run network institution**."*

*(Source: AFPPD Strategic Plan 2016-2019, Para 79.)*

4

## Strategy 4.1 Governance and accountability: Key Performance Indicators

a) \* **AFPPD Annual Reports** (2015, 2016) produced.

\* The four **Executive Committee meetings** were successfully conducted in 2016 and 2017.

\* The **minutes** of the 80<sup>th</sup>, 81<sup>st</sup>, 82<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committees were approved. The 83<sup>rd</sup> meeting was just completed.

\* **Standing Committee Reports** were produced with a set of recommendations were made to the Executive Committee.

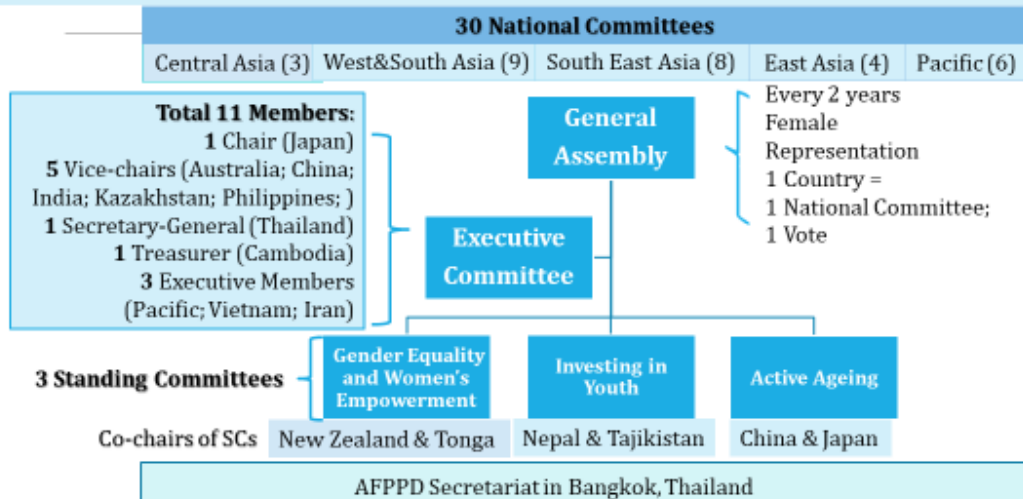
b) **National Committee annual reports.** →

*Only partially collected.*



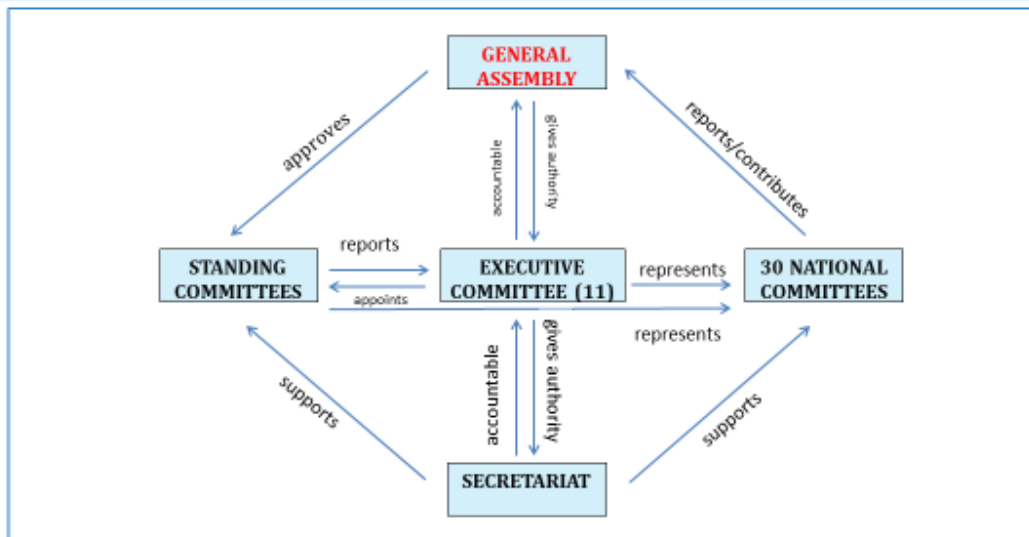
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## AFPPD Governance Structure (2016-2019)



6

## AFPPD Accountability Framework



7

## Strategy 4.2 Reorganization:

\* Reorganize the AFPPD Secretariat and make use of UN/CSO partnerships to strengthen technical capacity and knowledge base.

*"In order to strengthen its management and technical capacity, the structure of AFPPD Secretariat will be reviewed to best support the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Given the small size of the Secretariat, AFPPD will engage competent UN organizations and CSOs to provide necessary technical expertise and knowledge. (Para 82.)"*

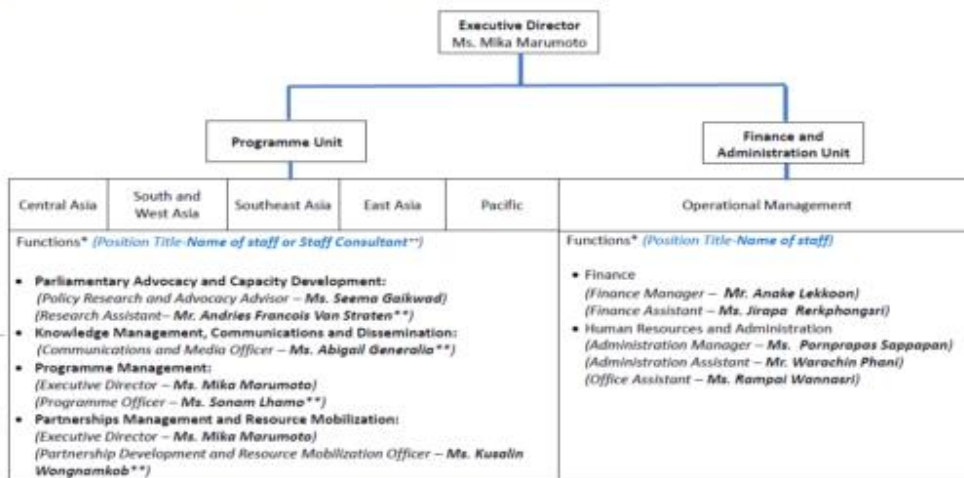
### Key performance indicators:

- a) New structure in place and new posts filled
- b) MOUs exchanged for technical support with selected UN organizations/CSOs.

8

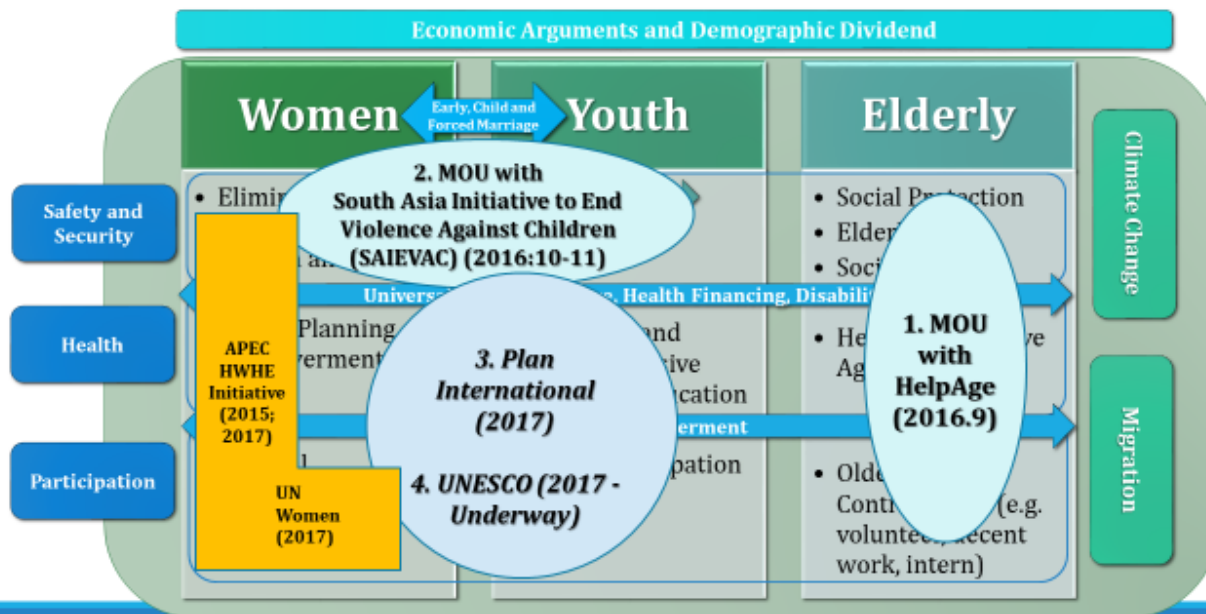
# AFPPD Secretariat Organizational Structure and Staffing

AFPPD Secretariat Structure [as of October 13, 2017]



Note:  
 \*Functions are defined in the AFPPD Strategic Plan 2016-2019 (2015) and corresponding positions are supposed to be created and filled by the end of the Strategic Cycle.  
 \*\* Currently filled by staff consultants.

## AFPPD Partnerships with IOs and CSOs in 2016-2017



Note: AFPPD has three Standing Committees working on (1) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, (2) Investing in Youth, and (3) Active Ageing

## Conclusions

- ❑ AFPPD Secretariat followed the revised Constitution (2015) which set clearer **governance** and **accountability** than before.
- ❑ AFPPD's **manuals** have been reviewed every six months for operational efficiency and approved by the Executive Committee.
- ❑ The role of **key stakeholders** are clearer, and the **Standing Committees** have provided strategic advice to the Executive Committee.
- ❑ AFPPD has forged **strategic partnerships** with key partners to strengthen its operations.
- ❑ AFPPD Secretariat continues to reform itself to become a **more professionally-run parliamentary network**.
- ❑ AFPPD needs to consider ways to communicate well with National Committees, further strengthening **national committees capacity building**.

## *Governance Session – AFPPD’s Governance*

- 1. I would like to report on the AFPPD’s performance in 2016 and 2017 in the area of management output, or good governance, in the AFPPD Strategic Plan Result Chain & Accountability Framework.*
- 2. At the General Assembly in 2015, AFPPD adopted the recommendations from the Task Force on Transparency, Accountability and Governance to integrate them into the Strategic Plan 2016-2019.*
- 3. For the 10-month period leading up to the General Assembly 2015, the Task Force reviewed and amended the AFPPD Constitution to clarify the roles of all AFPPD internal stakeholders. These include the role of General Assembly, Executive Committee, Standing Committees, National Committees, and the AFPPD Secretariat. Especially, the roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committees are defined as providing strategic advice to the AFPPD Executive Committee.*
- 4. The 2015 Task Force recommendations are reflected in the Strategic Paper 2016-2019 “Strategy 4.1 Governance and Accountability” to implement the new governance accountability mechanisms and systems.*
- 5. During 2016-2017, AFPPD followed these revised rules and procedures in order to improve its operational efficiency and transparency.*
- 6. AFPPD manuals are reviewed and revised every six months by AFPPD Secretariat and the Executive Committee to ensure that AFPPD will continue to improve transparency, accountability and governance.*
- 7. AFPPD published Annual Reports for 2015 and 2016, and will publish the Annual Report 2017 in early 2018.*



8. *In 2016-2017, four Executive Committee meetings were successfully convened, and AFPPD activities have been implemented within the Strategic Framework.*
9. *Executive Committee reports and Standing Committee minutes were prepared and follow-up actions were documented, and monitored in a consistent manner.*
10. *Under Strategy 4.2, Reorganization states that AFPPD should reorganize the AFPPD Secretariat and make sure of UN and CSO partnerships to strengthen technical capacity and knowledge base.*
11. *AFPPD Secretariat has selectively partnered with UN and CSO organizations to strengthen the work of the Standing Committees on women, youth, and ageing populations. For instance, in 2016, AFPPD signed the MOUs with HelpAge International and South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). Earlier today, AFPPD signed new MOUs with UNESCO and Plan International to strengthen the work of the Standing Committee on Investing in Youth. AFPPD will continue to work with our strategic partners.*
12. *In conclusion, AFPPD will continue to reform itself to become a more professionally-run parliamentarian network. AFPPD Secretariat will strive to develop ways to communicate better with each National Committee in order to further strengthen national committee capacity building.*



# AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Governance Session - Finance

7-8 OCTOBER 2017 | COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

MRS. KHENGLORK, TREASURER

ASIAN FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

1

## AFPPD's Strategic Plan 2016-2019: Results Chain & Accountability Framework



2

## Strategy 4.1 Governance and accountability: Key Performance Indicators

**a) \* AFPPD Annual Reports (2015, 2016) produced.**

\* The four **Executive Committee meetings** were successfully conducted in 2016 and 2017.

\* The **minutes** of the 80<sup>th</sup>, 81<sup>st</sup>, 82<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committees were approved. The 83<sup>rd</sup> meeting was just completed.

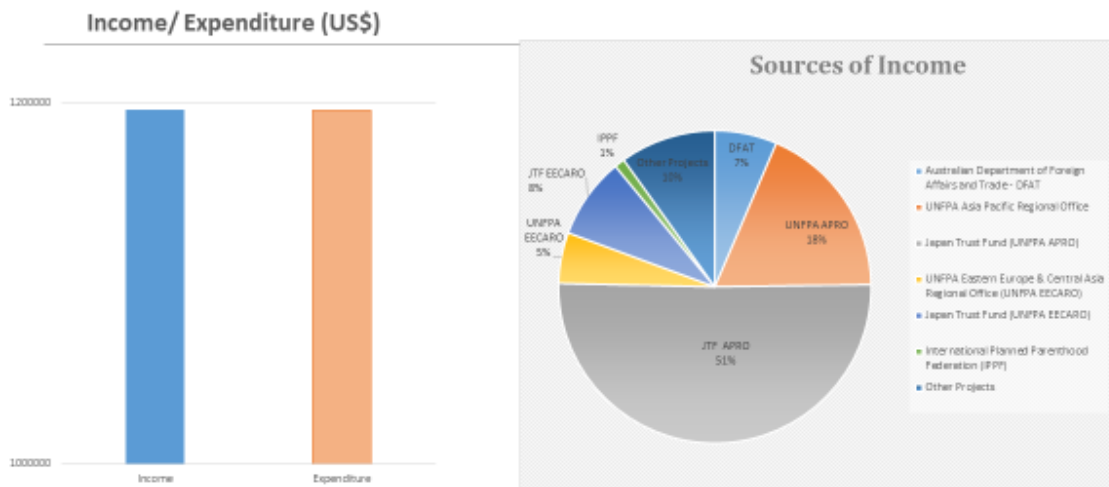
\* **Standing Committee Reports** were produced with a set of recommendations were made to the Executive Committee.

**b) National Committee annual reports.**

**c) Financial reports and audits reports were published.**

3

## AFPPD Income/Expenditure & Fund Utilization Rate 2016



Source: AFPPD Annual Report 2016

4

## 2016 AFPPD Financial Status Summary

- Fund utilization = 99.9%
- Micro Assessment by UNFPA
- Financial Auditing 2016 (**unqualified**)

### RESULTS:

**Low risk rating** as an Implementing Agency &  
**Unqualified** Financial Status obtained (with some suggestions)



All suggestions from the auditors were reflected in the **revised Operations, Finance, and Human Resources Manuals** for the Executive Committee's approval

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## Audited Financial Statements 2017 Q3 & Fund Utilization Status

✓ **FUND UTILIZATION RATE**  
**=90%**

✓ *(Remaining Activities will be implemented in Q4)*

12<sup>TH</sup> General Assembly Conference at Colombo in October 2017

Implementation Analysis Project (in progress)

HelpAge Conference in Thailand in December 2017

83<sup>rd</sup> AFPPD Executive Committee Meetings

APEC Meeting Follow-up Activities - Policy Briefs on the topics discussed

97% = UNFPA APRO Core Fund

81% = UNFPA APRO JTF

75% = UNFPA APRO JTF APEC

91% = UNFPA JTF EECARO

100% = Australia DFAT

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## Conclusions

- ❑ AFPPD received the “**unqualified financial status**” from its auditors both in 2015 and 2016.
- ❑ AFPPD has utilized **99.9%** in 2016, and **90%** as of 2017 Q3.
- ❑ AFPPD has been rated and categorized into the “**Low Risk**” **Implementing Agency** group based on UNFPA Micro Assessment.



# AFPPD 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Governance Session

## Report from the AFPPD Secretariat

7-8 OCTOBER 2017 | COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

MIKA MARUMOTO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ASIAN FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

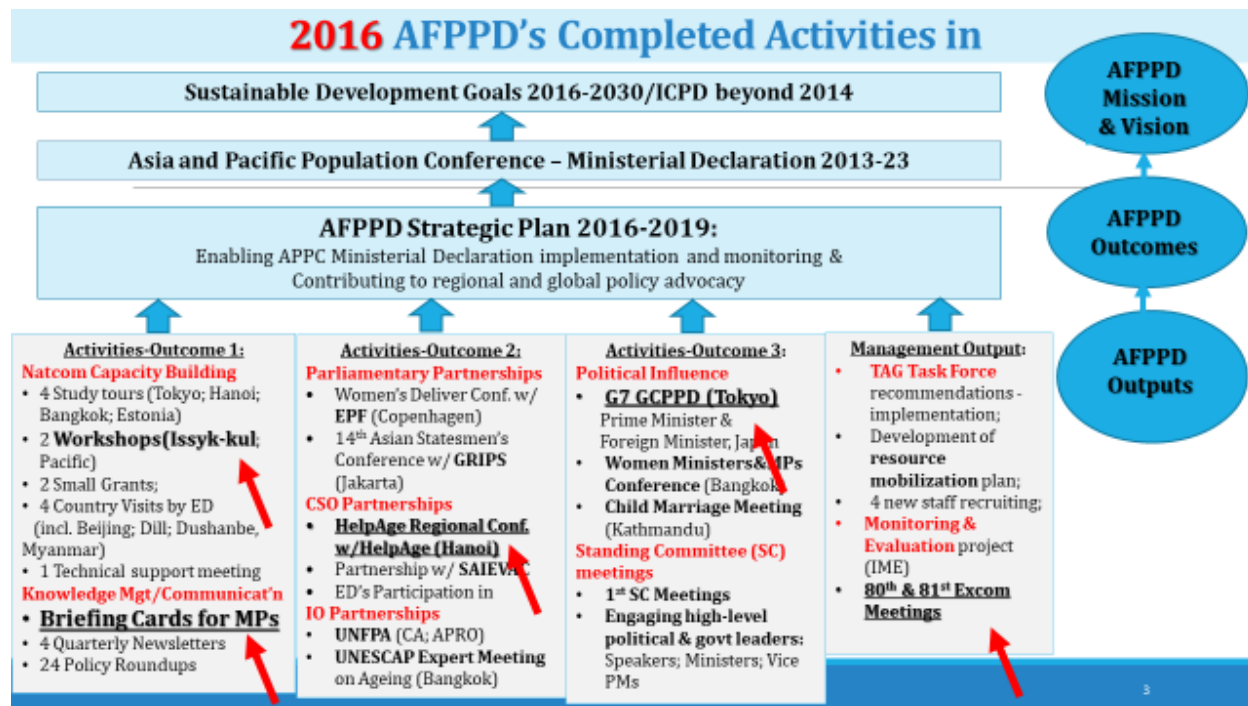
1

### AFPPD's Strategic Plan 2016-2019: Results Chain and Accountability Framework:



2





**Outcome 1**

### AFPPD-NCKPD National Parliamentarian Workshop: "Legislating for the Full Achievement of the SDGs/ ICPD Goals and Targets" Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, September 2 - 3, 2016

↓

### Multistakeholders participation; National Action Plan for Advocacy

Outcome 1

## AFPPD's *Briefing Cards for Parliamentarians (2016)*



- **Good Practices and Country Case Studies**
- **Evidence-based Policy and Programmes**
- **Relevant Statistics and Data**

Disseminated to  
NatComs in  
2017 Q1

\* Useful reference documents in planning and achieving the **SDGs** & in conducting the **SDGs National Voluntary Reviews**

\* Translated into **Lao, Russian and Vietnamese**

<https://www.afppd.org/Resources/39-briefing-cards.pdf> 5

Outcome 2, 3

## Standing Committee Meeting On **Active Ageing**

Hanoi, Vietnam, September 8, 2016

**Strategic Advice and Action Plans to the AFPPD Executive Committee & Strategic Partnership with HelpAge International**



**Outcome 3**

**Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development  
Toward the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit** 26-27 April 2016, Tokyo, Japan

**GCPPD Declaration and Recommendations to the G7 Ise-Shima Summit**

**G7 Leaders' Declaration; G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health**



Source: GCPPD Declaration & Recommendations to the G7 Ise-Shima Summit. <http://www.afppd.org/events/event-docs/1-081-global-conference-of-parliamentarians-on-population-and-development-2016-dec.pdf>  
 AFPPD - GCPPD Conference Report (2016). <http://www.afppd.org/events/event-docs/1-g7-gcppd-final-report-2nd-ed-6-june-2016-map-report.pdf>  
 The G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. <http://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000160266.pdf>

**2017 AFPPD's completed and planned activities**







## Recommendations to the Executive Committee from AFPPD SC on **Active Ageing** (2016-2017)

1. **Evidence-based Policymaking** on Ageing – demand-driven outcomes
2. **Human Resources in the Long-Term Care Sector – Harmonization of LTC**
3. **Regional and Global Conventions on Rights for Older Persons**
4. **Income Security** for Older Persons:
5. **Parliamentarians Action** including AFPPD's Follow-up Action:
  - \* Adopt a multi-stakeholder national and regional approach.
  - \* Adopt more thematic workshops and conferences with experts.
  - \* Urge parliamentarians to develop a system of reporting to other MPs.
  - \* Evolve a strong mechanism to enable AFPPD to become a **knowledge center** for MPs.

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## Recommendations to the Executive Committee from AFPPD SC on **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment** (2016-2017)

1. Take up **gender-responsive budgeting** either as a theme of a dedicated workshop and/or a session of AFPPD's future meetings
2. Plan **mock parliaments** for women by all AFPPD National Committees as action items for 2017-2019
3. Create **knowledge exchange forums** on a **quota system** for women in politics and economics.
4. Raise the issue of the **Global Gag Rule** and consider Asia-Pacific parliamentarians' collective action
5. Plan and consider **inter-sub-regional learning and knowledge sharing sessions** on **common agenda** such as early, child and forced marriage

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## Recommendations to the Executive Committee from AFPPD's SC on **Investing in Youth** (2016-2017)

1. Undertake **budget analyses** for investing in youth
  - 2a. Undertake **national level surveys** to match the demand and supply of jobs for youth
  - 2b. Undertake initiatives for improving the **quality of vocational education**
  - 3a. Incorporate **life skills education** into the curriculum, including **CSE** and **financial literacy**
  - 3b. Organize a dedicated workshop/session on the issue of **substance abuse among youth**
  - 3c. Partner with **AIPA Fact Finding Committee (AIFOCOM)** dedicated to combat the drug menace in the region
  - 4a. Take up the **Colombo Process, Abu Dhabi Dialogue**, and migration issues during the 12<sup>th</sup> GA.
  - 4b. Organize a dedicated workshop on the nexus between **climate change and migration**
  - 5a. Organize a **mock parliament for youth**
  - 5b. Advocate for the adoption of a **quota system** to enable more **youth participation in politics**

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## Proposed **Strategic Direction 2018-2019** & **Flagship Events (2018)** and Research Work

GEWE	Investing in Youth	Active Ageing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference + APEC HWHE, PNG (2018)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Conference on Investing in Youth, Kazakhstan (2018)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Ageing Conference, Iran (2018)</li> </ul>

**Knowledge Center** for Parliamentary Advocacy work  
 Evidence-based **Good Practices** and **Policies**  
 based on AFPPD's  
**Legislation Analysis and Fact Sheets; Implementation Analysis; Budget Analysis**

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## Conclusions

- ❑ AFPPD Secretariat has attempted to take **an integrated approach** in planning activities by linking one event to the next.
- ❑ AFPPD Secretariat has embarked on work in line with **AFPPD's mission – parliamentary legislation, implementation, and national budgeting.**
- ❑ Under the challenging funding environment, AFPPD Secretariat has forged **strategic partnerships** with selected technical partners, and will spend a **dedicated staff time** to resource mobilization in 2018-2019.
- ❑ AFPPD Secretariat has closely worked with the **Standing Committees** and the **Executive Committee** to ensure that activities can generate expected outcomes stated in the **Results Chain and Accountability Framework** as well as **Strategic Priorities Framework.**