



PRESS RELEASE

## AFPPD to Hold National Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals for Lao Parliamentarians

**VIENTIANE, 28 May 2017** – On May 30-31, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) will hold its first national level workshop with its National Committee member in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), the Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (LAPPD). The **AFPPD-LAPPD Parliamentarians Workshop**, supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), will bring together over 25 Members of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR, representatives from various government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs) and United Nations agencies.

In this multi-stakeholders workshop, participating parliamentarians are expected to work on the country’s National Plans, identifying priority population and development issues and developing advocacy action plans. AFPPD will also launch the Lao version of its flagship knowledge product, [Briefing Cards for Parliamentarians](#), which highlights evidence-based policies and good practices on gender equality and women’s empowerment, investing in youth and active ageing.

Since its establishment in 2003, LAPPD has worked closely with AFPPD to provide oversight on the implementation of laws and policies in Lao PDR, particularly in the areas of reproductive health and gender equality. Lao PDR has achieved much development progress following the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994. However, many barriers remain to meet the needs of the vulnerable population. The workshop’s theme “*Legislating for the Full Achievement of the SDGs/ICPD Goals and Targets*” underscores the urgency to mainstream the ICPD Agenda in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure that no one is left behind.

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**Background:** AFPPD is a network of 29 parliamentary committees from across the Asia-Pacific region. AFPPD advocates for parliamentary action and change, in support of population and development issues: gender equality and women’s empowerment including sexual and reproductive health and rights; investing in youth; active ageing; and population dynamics.

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