



PRESS RELEASE

## **AFPPD to Hold First Conference for Central Asian Parliamentarians and Governments since Adoption of SDGs**

**BISHKEK, 26 June 2017** – More than 30 Central Asian parliamentarians and government representatives are in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan this week to attend the **AFPPD Central Asian Sub-Regional Conference** on June 28-29, co-organized by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and its member national committee, the National Committee of Kyrgyzstan on Population and Development (NCKPD). This will be the first sub-regional conference for AFPPD member parliamentarians in Central Asia since the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015.

This meeting is expected to outline a plan of action for parliamentarians to address priority population and development issues in Central Asia, particularly in relation to SDG 3 on health and SDG 5 on gender equality.

According to AFPPD's legislation analysis project, most Central Asian countries have developed comprehensive legislation frameworks encompassing healthcare, education, gender equality, and youth empowerment. However, the sub-region continues to face challenges in policy and legislation implementation.

Under the conference's theme: *Addressing the Challenges of Vulnerable Populations in Central Asia*, participating parliamentarians will discuss their experiences with experts from United Nations agencies and academia. Parliamentarians from South and Southeast Asia, and Eastern Europe, will also join the conversations to exchange good practices and lessons learned from other sub-regions.

In the opening, AFPPD will launch the Russian 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. Following the conclusion of the conference, participants will also attend a study tour to the Kyrgyz State Technical University.

The AFPPD Central Asian Sub-Regional Conference is funded by the Japan Trust Fund and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

--

**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.