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Sri Lanka Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Sustainable Development

PRESS RELEASE

AFPPD 12th General Assembly: Engaging Parliamentarians, Pursuing Human Development

Colombo, 5 October 2017 – The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) will convene the 12th General Assembly in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 7 to 8 October 2017.

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.

Under the theme of “Engaging Parliamentarians, Pursuing Human Development,” AFPPD member national committees will also reflect on the first two years of their respective governments’ planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 12th AFPPD General Assembly will provide a forum for Asia-Pacific parliamentarians to redouble their political commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and accelerating the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD PoA).

Supported by the Japan Trust Fund through the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the 12th General Assembly is organized in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Sustainable Development (SLPPD), an AFPPD member national committee. Sri Lanka’s national committee for population and development was one of the founding members of the Forum. This strengthened national committee, now SLPPD, together with another recently revived national committee in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as a new member, Tuvalu, will be welcomed by the General Assembly. Tuvalu will officially become the 30th member of AFPPD.

The AFPPD national committees, as well as the members of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, will participate in the conduct of a mock parliament for youth to be held the day after the General Assembly. Elected members of Sri Lanka’s youth parliament will be debating on the proposed new constitution of the country. Advocating for youth participation in political processes is one of AFPPD’s priority areas of work.

Background: As of October 2017, AFPPD is a network of 30 parliamentary committees 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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