

**Minutes of
AFPPD 94th Executive Committee Meeting
Tokyo, Japan
24 April 2023**



The 94th Executive Committee Meeting of AFPPD

Welcome Address

Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi, MP Japan, Chair of AFPPD opened the Executive Committee Meeting of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). As the host of the Executive Committee Meeting, he welcomed everyone to Japan and recognized that due to COVID-19, in-person meetings were not possible in the past three years. Hence, the importance of this Executive Meeting being held in-person. He acknowledged that each individual country is facing difficulties in the context of complex international communities including Russian invasion of Ukraine, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic. These are serious difficulties jointly faced by all of the human society. Under these circumstances, Hon. Prof. Takemi hopes that AFPPD is able to carry out its mission as parliamentarians' network specifically for population and development.

Attendees:

Parliamentarians				
Online				
1	Hon.	Li Bin	China	MP
2	Mr.	Zhang Chuansheng	China	NC officer
3	Ms.	Wen Quan	China	NC officer
In-person				
4	Hon.	Lork Kheng	Cambodia	MP
5	Hon	Deepender Hooda	India	MP
6	Hon. Prof.	Keizo Takemi	Japan	MP; Chair of AFPPD
7	Hon.	Risa Hontiveros	Philippines	MP
8	Hon. Dr.	Jetn Sirathranont	Thailand	MP
9	Hon.	Lord Tu'ivakano	Tonga	MP
10	Hon.	Nguyen Hoang Mai	Vietnam	MP
Absent				
	Hon.	Lisa Chesters	Australia	MP
			Kazakhstan	MP
			Malaysia	MP
Observers from National Committee Secretariats				
11	Ms.	Sheila Ngoc Pham	Australia	Secretariat officer
12	Ms.	Chanlinda Mith	Cambodia	CAPPD officer
13	Mr.	Manmohan Sharma	India	Executive Secretary of IAPPD
14	Dr.	Ikegami Kiyoko	Japan	Secretary General/Executive Director of APDA, JPFP Secretariat
15	Ms.	Hitomi Tsunekawa	Japan	JPFP Secretariat

16	Ms.	Eri Osada	Japan	APDA
17	Ms.	Aurora Quilala	Philippines	PLCPD Secretariat
18	Ms.	Nenita Dalde	Philippines	PLCPD Secretariat
AFPPD				
19	Dr.	Farrukh Usmonov	Japan	Interim Executive Director of AFPPD

Hon Prof. Takemi presented the agenda of the Executive Committee:

- a. Confirm the Minutes of the 93rd Executive Committee Meeting of the AFPPD
- b. Report of AFPPD Activities from October 2022 to March 2023
- c. Discuss Activities for 2023 Onwards
- d. Discuss Agenda for the 14th AFPPD General Assembly
- e. Proposed 95th AFPPD Executive Committee Meeting, Autumn 2023
- f. Other matters

Agenda

1. Confirm the Minutes of the 93rd Executive Committee Meeting of the AFPPD

Hon. Prof. Takemi directed the body to the minutes of the 93rd Executive Committee Meeting. Dr. Usmonov Farrukh, AFPPD Interim Executive Director, informed the body that the minutes has been uploaded in the AFPPD website and shared among the members of the executive committee for their comments. There have been no comments on the content of the minutes from the members of the executive committee.

Hon. Prof. Takemi opened the floor for additional comments on the minutes of the 93rd Executive Committee Meeting. There being no comments on the draft minutes, Prof. Takemi declared the confirmation of the document as the official minutes of the 93rd Executive Committee Meeting of the AFPPD.

2. Report of AFPPD Activities from October 2022 to March 2023

Dr. Usmonov presented the list of AFPPD activities from October 2022 to March 2023.

8 November 2022	Global Symposium on Ageing and Low Fertility: Building Demographic Resilience (Seoul, Republic of Korea). Co-organized by UNFPA Opening speech by Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, Secretary General of AFPPD (online)
17-18 November 2022	AFPPD's national level activity in India Meeting with the researchers Attended by Dr. Farrukh Usmonov, Interim Executive Director
29-30 November 2022	AFPPD's national level activity in Indonesia Inauguration of the IFPPD members Meeting on the Three Zeroes Opening speech by Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi (online)

	Attended by Dr. Farrukh Usmonov, Interim Executive Director. Moderated one of the Sessions.
January 2023	Consultancy post for the development of AFPPD's Strategic Plan 2023-2025
January 2023	Circulation of the call for scholarship program supported by IAPPD
January-March 2023	Series of consultative meetings with UNFPA APRO to discuss the legislative and policy review on gender issues
January-March 2023	Development of the AFPPD Strategic Plan 2023-2025 Consultants were interviewed and assigned
27 February 2023	AFPPD's national level activity in Cambodia Workshop on youth empowerment and SRHR Initiated and Facilitated by Hon. Lork Kheng, Treasurer Opening speech by Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, Chair (online) Presentation by Hon. Lisa Chesters, Vice-Chair (online) Closing remark by Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, Secretary General (online) Presentations made by Hon. Raoul Dannel A Manuel, MP Philippines and Hon. Dede Yusuf, MP Indonesia and Chair of IFPPD Attended by Dr. Usmonov Farrukh, Interim Executive Director
December 2022-April 2023	Preparation for GCPPD2023, 25-26 April 2023, Tokyo, Japan

Hon. Prof. Takemi underscored that even during the COVID-19 pandemic, these activities show that a series of meetings on population and development were held. He thanked the organizing committee in India and Cambodia for hosting these national level meetings. He also welcomed comments on these meetings from MPs of India and Cambodia. Hon. Deepender Hooda, MP from India, expressed appreciation for having Dr. Usmonov in India for these activities.

3. Activities for 2023 Onwards

Dr. Usmonov presented the planned activities for the rest of the year (April to December 2023).

24 April	14 th General Assembly of AFPPD
25-26 April	Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (GCPPD2023)
May-June	Development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan • M&E Plan • Resource Mobilization Plan
May-November	Research on GBV (in consultation with UNFPA APRO)
August-September	Decision on Standing Committee Meetings
September-October	Activities in Central Asia (in consultation with UNFPA EECARO)
September-October	Submission of Project Proposal for 2024-2025

September-October	95 th Executive Committee Meeting
December	Submission of Project Report for 2022-2023 Programs

[On list of activities for the remaining months of 2023.](#)

Hon. Prof. Takemi clarified whether what has been presented contained the list of all the activities that AFPPD will be undertaking for the rest of the year. Dr. Usmonov affirmed that what has been presented are the list of what AFPPD want to conduct. There are no plans yet for any in-person meetings because the new series of in-person meetings will commence in 2024.

Hon. Prof. Takemi asked the body for comments on the planned activities presented. Dr. Usmonov clarified that these are subject to confirmation. For instance, the negotiation with UNFPA EECARO for the conduct of activity in Central Asia in September-October 2023 is ongoing.

[On financing meetings/activities.](#)

Hon. Prof. Takemi noted that the member states of Central Asia are not only members of AFPPD, but they are also coordinated by UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asian regional office (EECARO). This September-October 2023 meeting can be financed by UNFPA EECARO. Dr. Usmonov explained that for the meetings in Asia Pacific, there is a UNFPA Asia Pacific based in Bangkok, Thailand that is in-charge. For Central Asia, there is the UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia which is in Istanbul, Turkey. The main source of funding of the AFPPD activities for both of these offices is the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) of UNFPA. While there could be similar meetings held, the financing process is different depending on where it will be held.

[On selecting hosts of in-person meetings in 2024.](#)

Hon. Prof. Takemi requested to be clarified on the procedure on how member states can express their interest in hosting in-person meetings (e.g., seminar, workshops) in 2024. If there would be several applications from member states expressing interest to host the same in-person meetings, this has to be settled based on the rule of law of AFPPD. Dr. Usmonov responded that the Secretariat should receive application which will be discussed with the Selection Committee.

[On hosts of meetings in Central Asia.](#)

Dr. Usmonov underscored that the host of the meeting in Central Asia in September-October is still undecided. Only one meeting in Central Asia will be held, hence the need for only one host, but two countries are keen to host the meeting: Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Tajikistan has been trying to get the approval of the speaker of the House of Representatives for the meeting in September on youth. Kyrgyzstan, on the other hand, had only expressed interest to host one of the meetings. Hon. Prof. Takemi asked for the meetings to be finalized. Hon. Hooda, MP from India, proposed for Tajikistan to be given preference to signify the gravity of the approval of their House of the Representative’s Speaker. The Executive Committee accepts Tajikistan’s interest to host the meeting to be sponsored by UNFPA EECARO.

[On development of strategic plan, M&E plan, and resource mobilization plan.](#)

Hon. Prof. Takemi clarified whether these plans are originally drafted by the consultants. Dr. Usmonov affirmed that there are three plans that have to be concluded before the end of the year: the (1) strategic plan has already been shared with the member states and will be discussed during the General Assembly later that day; and the draft (2) M&E plan and (3) resource mobilization plan will be shared with the member states for their comments once Dr. Usmonov receives the drafts. The strategic plan will be presented by the consultant during the General Assembly and Prof. Takemi will open the floor for any comments and consequently approval.

On standing committee meetings.

Dr. Usmonov raised that AFPPD has to submit a project proposal for 2024-2025 (two years). In order to apply, Secretariat has to receive interest from member states who wants to host regional meetings of AFPPD and standing committee meetings. AFPPD has three standing committees: gender equality and women's empowerment, investing in youth, and active ageing. Each standing committee can organize one meeting annually (hence, two meetings for each standing committee in two years). In total, there would be six standing committee meetings for 2024-2025.

The consultant estimated a budget for each standing committee meetings each year. This is only an estimate to fulfill the strategic plan and may change depending on the Japan Trust Fund.

On submission of project proposal for 2024-2025.

Hon. Prof. Takemi suggested for the General Assembly to officially request all the member states to express interest to host standing committee meetings. He also suggested to have a deadline for expressing interest for the Chairperson of standing committees to receive the applications. Dr. Usmonov said that the member states will be asked during the General Assembly to submit their application to the secretariat by the end of June so that it will be included in the proposal to UNFPA APRO. Hon. Hooda clarified why the deadline is in June but the submission is in September-October. Dr. Farrukh explained that they will be needing 2-3 months to finalize the submission since there will be negotiation with the UNFPA APRO office to finalize the proposal. After the submission to the UNFPA APRO, they will then submit it to the Government of Japan. Once the Government of Japan approves the budget, it will be given to UNFPA APRO then to AFPPD through APDA.

On small-grant projects and regional meetings.

Apart from the six standing committee meetings in two years, AFPPD would like to have three national level activities called "small ground projects" annually. This means that there will be six projects in two years. These national level activities are mainly focused on domestic activities.

Regional meetings will be held once a year. The purpose of a regional meeting is for a country to report about its progress on addressing issues on gender, youth, ageing, and other important population related issues. Additionally, it seeks to revive the national committees and their contribution to AFPPD, the national level activities, and the country reporting. It is therefore hoped that all member states will be able to attend the regional meetings to also strengthen networking among AFPPD's member states. Hon. Hooda clarified whether there will be two regional meetings in a year as stated in the document shared with the Executive Committee members or one regional meeting annually as being discussed. Dr. Usmonov corrected that it will only be one regional meeting per year and that the document will be corrected.

On expanding AFPPD's political influence.

Hon. Risa Hontiveros, MP from Philippines, inquired as to whether aside from the G7, will it also be proposed during the General Assembly for the AFPPD to have parliamentary meetings with ASEAN and other Asian formations. Hon. Prof. Takemi answered that the "GCPPD towards G7 Summit" to be held the next day is a large meeting of parliamentarians to be hosted not just by AFPPD but also will be attended by Africa and Arab members. Japan was the host of a large parliamentarians' meeting seven years ago in the G7 Ise-Shima Summit and AFPPD is the core of the large size gathering of the parliamentarians. The last time AFPPD adopted the proposal for a declaration, AFPPD was able to bring the draft declaration to then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and explained that gender-related issues must be part of the agenda of the G7 Ise-Shima summit. Most of the proposals were accepted by the G7 and the publicized statements of the heads of states of G7 on gender-related issues are based on AFPPD's statement. As today's meeting is AFPPD's and the next day's meeting is for the GCPPD which serves as a side event for G7, it is the hope that AFPPD can replicate this success for the upcoming G7 summit.

4. Discuss Agenda of the 14th AFPPD General Assembly

Hon. Prof. Takemi opened the floor for any other subjects that the body would wish to discuss during the General Assembly.

Orientation on AFPPD for new members of the parliament.

Hon. Lork Keng, MP from Cambodia, raised that there will be an election of the Cambodian parliament on July 23, 2023. This means that around 30-40% will be young parliamentarians who are not familiar with AFPPD and ICPD. She suggested to conduct a consultation and produce a documentation for ICPD, followed with an orientation on ICPD and AFPPD for all new members of the parliaments. She proposed to do it in June-September 2024. Hon. Prof. Takemi recognized that considering that election may replace some parliamentarian- members, AFPPD should always be ready to accept younger parliamentarians to join. AFPPD's website and national level meetings should be utilized, and national level project can be organized so that young parliamentarians can be invited to experience AFPPD's activities.

Hon. Lork Keng, also added that because of the upcoming elections, there might be less women in the parliament. She proposed to promote women's participation in politics and in decision-making. Hon. Prof. Takemi recognized that women's participation in politics is a very important subject. Even in the recently concluded elections in Japan, the percentage of women parliamentarians is still limited (21% compared to the target of 36% by the government). Therefore, much is to be done for future elections.

On adopting the AFPPD declaration for the G7 and G20 summit.

Hon. Hooda pointed out that the declaration says, "Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development towards the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit" and that the members of the parliaments attending the GCPPD are calling upon the G7 for certain goals that the body has discussed. Japan is the president of G7 in 2023, and similarly, India will serve as president of the G20 in September 2023. G20 represents more than 80% of world's GDP, including the European Union, United States, China, and Russia. Thus, he proposed for the declaration to be presented to the G20 Summit.

On the 95th Executive Committee Meeting of AFPPD as side event to G20.

Hon. Prof. Takemi asked whether it is also necessary to organize a side event during the G20 summit. Hon. Hooda responded that once the declaration is adopted and presented to the leadership committee, organizing a side event meeting can also be considered. A team from AFPPD may visit New Delhi before the G20 summit to either meet with the Indian Prime Minister or Indian Ministry of External Affairs to present the resolution. Hon. Prof. Takemi suggested that for the second Executive Committee Meeting of AFPPD this year slated to happen in spring (September, October, or November), it can be held in India so that the Executive Committee can present the declaration to the secretariat of the G20. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand, seconded the idea but suggested for AFPPD to focus on one of its agenda. In the previous G7 meeting, focusing on women's agenda lead to increase in budget allocation. Hon. Prof. Takemi agreed that it is a strategic move to utilize G7 and G20 meetings as political leverage and mobilize political resources in the global governance structure.

Hon. Prof. Takemi inquired whether there is still budget for a regional meeting and Dr. Usmonov answered that the budget for this year's regional meeting is already allocated for the GCPPD happening in the next two days and in crafting the strategic documents. This is also why AFPPD needs to craft and submit the new proposal, but the availability of the budget depends on the processing time. Hon. Prof. Takemi requested the body to grant him authority to negotiate to mobilize the budget in order to organize the Executive Committee meeting and a side event of parliamentarians in India to create a political momentum in proposing to the G20. While it is still uncertain whether additional resources will be available, this step will be taken.

5. Proposed 95th AFPPD Executive Committee Meeting, Autumn 2023

On possible disagreements on the draft Declaration of the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development Toward the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit.

The draft declaration will be proposed in the General Assembly. Dr. Usmonov expressed that a country may disagree with the use of some words (i.e., gender, gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health and rights or SRHR) but no disagreement or comments has been officially expressed yet. To maintain harmonious relationship among the member states, Prof. Takemi expressed that what has been done in the past is to consult with each individual member states and persuade them to inhibit from voting when they disagree with a decision point. It should be noted that there may be some countries which might not join the discussion and voting for this declaration especially on gender-related issues. Hon. Hooda proposed to hear from countries who might have objection and find a way to re-word as an effort to include everyone in the declaration. If they are still in disagreement, he seconded the suggestion to persuade the country to inhibit from voting.

On keeping gender, GBV, and SRHR in the declaration.

Hon. Hontiveros expressed support on the proposal of Hon. Prof. Takemi to convince the country to join the declaration if possible, and if not, request the country to inhibit from voting. She would like to put on record that for AFPDD to be true to its essence, it is imperative to keep concepts of gender, gender-based violence, and SRHR in the declaration. Hon. Prof. Takemi agreed and underscored that in this situation, these countries might be persuaded by highlighting other population related issues in the declaration that they truly want to join in, such as investment in youth and active aging. If the body agreed with his proposal, he requested the body to grant him authority to consult with these countries on the declaration. The body concurred.

On a delegation on active aging to China.

Hon. Li Bin, MP from People's Republic of China, expressed their support in the AFPPD in the next five years and in maintaining good working relationship. Hon. Prof. Takemi thanked China and shared that in a consultation with the former Vice-Chair of AFPPD, a delegation from AFPPD can be sent to China for the issue of active ageing as China has one of the biggest ageing populations. If that is possible, then AFPPD would appreciate it. If not, then it can still be done at a later time.

Closing

Hon. Prof. Takemi closed the session of the Executive Committee meeting and invited everyone to stay for the General Assembly.