

THE AFPPD SERVES AS A FORUM WITH THE GOAL OF CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL HUMAN BEINGS



## Regional Parliamentarians' Meeting on Gender Empowerment for a Green Economy

*Islamabad, Pakistan - 12-13 August 2024*

The Regional Parliamentarians' Meeting on Gender Empowerment for a Green Economy was convened in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan in August. Over 300 delegates from 20 countries attended including parliamentarians, government officials, academia, NGOs, international organizations, youth groups, and academia. It was a robust exchange of best practices in policies, legislation, and programs aligned with the ICPD30 goals concerning gender equality, women's empowerment and climate change.

A comprehensive range of themes explored were central to the intersection of sustainable development, gender equality, and women's empowerment. This included in-depth discussions on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action with a focus on the critical role of women in responding to global crises such as climate change, and the need to enhance women's economic participation. These sessions delved into issues such as GBV, women's political empowerment, and the need for inclusive policies that prioritize investment in youth and women.



The meeting was co-hosted by the Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination in collaboration with AFPPD's Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and APDA, with support from UNFPA through the JTF.

### **Adoption of the Islamabad Declaration**

The final session culminated in the adoption of the "Islamabad Declaration", encapsulating 12 points of action.

The declaration is a unified commitment by the 20 participating nations to address the critical issues of gender inequality and climate change. It calls for a collaborative approach involving national parliaments, civil society, international organizations, and other stakeholders to implement policies that empower women and promote sustainable development. The final declaration reflects the shared vision and dedication of the participating countries to create a more equitable and resilient future.

The Islamabad Declaration highlights the importance of building resilient communities, promoting women's empowerment through education and employment, and ensuring data-driven policies that leave no one behind. The declaration also recognizes the crucial role of women and girls in disaster recovery and climate strategies, advocating for their inclusion in decision-making processes. Furthermore, it calls for the development of model legislation to protect the rights of women, girls, and adolescents, and urges collaboration among all stakeholders to implement the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda.

The session concluded with expressions of gratitude towards Pakistan for its hospitality and efforts in making the conference a success.

*Top photo: Hon. Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, Speaker of the Punjab Assembly*



## Sustainable Water Resources and Demographic Resilience for the Interest of Youth

*Dushanbe, Tajikistan - 10-11 June 2024*

Lawmakers face an increasingly complex world in which to deliver on their mandates. Emerging megatrends continue to reshape societies in complex ways, making a rigorous legislative process all the more important for effective, evidence-based action. Given the regional and global scope of challenges, inter-parliamentary dialogue is an essential tool for identifying sustainable policy solutions.

In that spirit, more than 450 participants from 15 countries gathered in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in June to advance dialogue on environmental and demographic issues in Asia and Eastern Europe. In this unique forum, parliamentarians, dignitaries, representatives from international organizations, and experts shared their experiences, exchanged ideas, and helped reinforce a network for dialogue.



The forum was organised by AFPPD's Standing Committee on Investing in Youth with support from UNFPA and the Japan Trust Fund. The warm reception and mobilization of resources by the forum's hosts, the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli (Parliament) of Tajikistan, sent a clear signal of the priority and value of these issues.

### ***Natural resources and human capital***

The common thread running throughout the forum was the utilization of both natural and human resources to their fullest potential. Discussion of these themes repeatedly underscored how conservation of natural resources and human capital are tightly interrelated, affecting society's capacity for development, mitigating and adapting to environmental change, and providing conditions for a high quality of life. The four substantive sessions explicitly identified young people and women as important subpopulations requiring policy attention for the specific challenges they face. Besides representing a meaningful goal in its own right, creating conditions for young people and women to thrive can also activate significant untapped capacity for the overall economic development and welfare of nations.

### ***Forum inspiration***

A major milestone in global population policy discourse, ICPD30, served as the inspiration for this forum. The Parliamentarians' forum was also inspired by and tied to the 3rd Dushanbe Water Conference, a gathering aimed at promoting sustainable use of water resources. Tajikistan, as a water-rich nation, has become a champion of such issues after hosting multiple international water-related initiatives and domestic legislative actions.

At the conclusion of the forum, a joint declaration was issued, with a statement on 12 priorities serving as a pledge for participants to pursue in their respective parliaments.





### **News from National Committees**

## **Parliamentarians' Regional Meeting on Ageing Preparedness and Care Economy in Asia**

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - 18 July 2024*

AFPPD Malaysia hosted a crucial conference themed "Ageing Preparedness and Care Economy in the Asian Region." The gathering included parliamentarians, policymakers, experts, and stakeholders from Malaysia and other Asian countries to address pressing issues surrounding population dynamics, sustainable development, and community empowerment. The conference discussed strategies for managing an ageing population, improving caregiver support, and leveraging technological advancements.

Topics discussed included universal health coverage, technology, innovation, public-private partnerships, and balancing economic sustainability.

The ageing population in Asia requires attention and preparation. The Malaysian government is dedicated to ensuring the welfare and well-being of older citizens. Strategies include elderly promotion, generational solidarity, and research. Valuing and encouraging contributions from older individuals is crucial for societal development.



The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) co-hosted the meeting with the support of the UNFPA Asia and Pacific Regional Office.

Highlights from the speech given at the Closing Ceremony by Hon. Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini binti Ahmad, Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development of Malaysia.



"The silver economy in Asia presents opportunities for innovation in healthcare, technology, and financial services.

As parliamentarians, we must lead the change in our countries to enhance preparedness for aging populations. I urge all present to take concrete actions, propose legislative reforms, and adopt long-term visions for our aging societies. Governments must develop proactive strategies to mitigate the impacts of demographic aging and seize the opportunities for growth and innovation.

Through collaboration, we can develop sustainable elder care solutions, promote economic inclusion, and ensure the well-being of all individuals."



## Combating Gender Based Violence and Harmful Social Practices

*Kathmandu, Nepal: 7 July 2024*

The Nepal Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development organized an interaction with the parliamentarians and representatives from the women's wings of political parties. The focus was on their crucial role in combating Gender Based Violence (GBV) with a special emphasis on harmful social practices.

The primary objective of this interaction was to gather collective recommendations on effective measures to combat GBV and promote sexual and reproductive health rights in Nepal. The event underscored the importance of constitutional and legal provisions related to harmful social practices, presenting relevant facts and data, the current status of GBV prevention and response, and the role of parliamentarians and other stakeholders to end harmful social practices.



Participants recommended the reinforcements of commitments and prioritizing actions to address legal and policy gaps in combating GBV including:

- enhancement of parliamentary oversight
- legislative reforms for GBV prevention
- effective response mechanisms and protection for survivors.

This interaction marked a vital step towards fostering a collaborative and proactive approach among lawmakers and political leaders to tackle GBV and promote a safer and more equitable society for all.

## JPFP submits official request to State Minister for Foreign Affairs to increase Japan's FY2025 contributions to UNFPA and IPPF

*Tokyo, Japan: 26 July*

On behalf of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), Hon. Kikawada Hitoshi, Secretary General of JPFP, submitted an official request to Hon. Tsuge Yoshifumi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, to increase Japan's FY2025 contributions to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as well as the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was a historic turning point for population issues. As it celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, Hon. Kikawada explained that the needs for sexual and reproductive health (SRH) are becoming more diverse and serious, and that despite the urgent need to address SRH issues such as GBV, child marriage and female genital mutilation, the funding is significantly lacking.

He also noted that SRH is essential in the context of Women, Peace and Security, which is strongly promoted by Japan under the initiative of Foreign Minister H.E. Kamikawa Yoko, and stressed the importance of supporting UNFPA and IPPF, the main actors in this area.

In response to JPFP's request, Hon. Tsuge expressed his appreciation for JPFP's long-standing activities and said that he fully recognized the importance of SRH and that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would continue to make proactive efforts to resolve SRH and population issues.

More information can be read in the announcement on the [MOFA website](#).

## Coming event

The AFPPD will hold its Annual Conference titled 'Addressing Three Pillars & Beyond ICPD30' on 7-9 October 2024 in Bali, hosted by the Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development.





## Inclusive Data for Policy Making

*Phnom Penh, Cambodia - 8 August 2024*

On the 35th World Population Day, an event was held in Phnom Penh. The following is an edited extract of remarks made by Hon. Lork Kheng, Member of the National Assembly, Chair of Commission on Public Health, Social Work, Veterans, Youth, Rehabilitation, Labor, Vocational Training and Women's Affairs.



"As the representative of the people, we need to protect the people's interest; effective and inclusive data is very important for decision making, the most important foundation in all circumstances. The National Assembly fully support and congratulates all political implementation of the government that reflect to data finding from research, survey in both the national framework and other official sources. Especially the government has considered to empower the small voice group of girl, women, ethnicity, vulnerable group and others in policy plan and other development programme."

*Top photo: Participants in the event for World Population Day in Phnom Penh.*

## Notice

Maldives Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (MPGPD) reconstituted on 7 August 2024, and consists of senior MPs from all political parties within the People's Majlis, both men and women MPs.

## Further reading

- [The ICPD30 Roadmap](#)
- The [Oslo Statement of Commitment](#), from the 8th International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of ICPD.
- The Global Dialogue on Demographic Diversity and Sustainable Development 2024 - Dhaka, Bangladesh ([UNFPA](#))
- Sexual and reproductive health for all: 20 years of the Global Strategy ([WHO](#))

## AFPPD Office Bearers

### Chairperson

Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, MP Japan

### Vice-Chairpersons

Hon. Lisa Chesters, MP Australia

MP China

Hon. Deepender Hooda, MP India

Hon. Edcel Lagman, MP Philippines

MP Kazakhstan

### Secretary General

Hon. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand

### Treasurer

Hon. Lork Kheng, MP Cambodia

### Members

Hon. Dato Sri Alexander Nanta Linggi, MP Malaysia

Hon. Nguyen Hoang Mai, MP Vietnam

Hon. Lord Tu'ivakano, MP Tonga

## Production staff

### Editor

Dr. Usmonov Farrukh

### Assistant Editor & Layout Design

Sheila Ngoc Pham



ASIAN FORUM OF  
PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT