

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



## The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the ICPD agenda

*Kathmandu, Nepal - 22 February 2025*

National Workshop on SDGs and ICPD 30 Commitments for Parliamentarians of Nepal was organized by AFPPD and NFPPD, funded by UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and JTF. The objectives were to enhance the parliamentarians' understanding of the SDGs in vis-à-vis the ICPD, focusing on national commitments and priorities, building consensus on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and aiming to create tangible national outcomes in policy development and funding allocation, with accountability mechanisms to support the ICPD and SDGs. The workshop also facilitated discussions on identifying key legal and

policy priorities to advance the ICPD agenda and align national legislation with global commitments, particularly in response to changing population trends and expand the pool of parliamentarians and champions who have sufficient knowledge to support the ICPD agenda.

In the opening session, chief guest H.E. Badri Prasad Pandey, Minister for Culture Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal, emphasized the importance of achieving the SDGs. NFPPD members had the opportunity to listen to the presentations made by various agencies, including the National Planning Commission and National Statistics Office.

## Achieving gender equality

*Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan - 17 January 2025*

The National Committee of Kyrgyzstan held a workshop for MPs on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, supported by AFPPD and UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA), funded by the Japan Trust Fund (JTF). MPs, representatives of government bodies and experts from international organizations came together to discuss gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Moreover, the workshop focused on analysis of existing barriers and obstacles; and developing recommendations and proposals for improving legislative and social mechanisms to protect rights and strengthen cooperation between government agencies, parliament and international organizations to achieve gender equality.

The workshop was facilitated by the Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva, MP Kyrgyzstan, Chair of the National Committee. She affirmed that AFPPD, which unites 30 National Committees across the Asia-Pacific, plays a key role in engaging parliamentarians on population and sustainable development issues. H.E. Nurlanbek Azygaliev, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, emphasized the event's importance, noting that gender equality is the basis for building a fair, sustainable and equal society, as well as an important factor in social and economic progress. He noted that the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic enshrines the provision of human rights, including gender equality, as one of the main principles of the modern state.



## Capacity-building training for members of Parliament from Turkmenistan

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan - 18-20 February

With support from AFPPD, the training for national parliamentarians was provided to support the parliament and government of Turkmenistan to adopt domestic violence legislation and to improve the current model law, in line with the most recent recommendations from the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The model law was drafted between 2019 and 2021 and aims to comply with international standards, with a gender perspective to protect women's rights and to address preventing and responding to gender-based violence.

The two days of training focused on understanding domestic violence and how it impacts society. This includes the role of legislation in preventing domestic violence and the current proposed model law, as well as international best practice for domestic violence legislation and the country's international human rights obligations vis-à-vis domestic violence legislation. Feedback was positive with a number of aspects of the workshop rated as good or excellent by participants. Some wanted more training and suggested the creation of a working group to develop legislation with representatives of parliament, police, education, health, NGOs and women's groups.



## Fostering partnerships with UNFPA

Tokyo, Japan - 10 December 2024

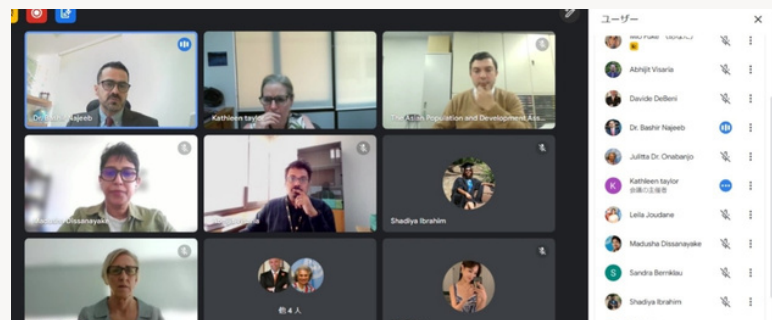
Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, Chairperson of AFPPD and Member of Parliament (MP) in Japan, welcomed representatives from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) led by Ms. Shoko Arakaki, Director of the UNFPA Humanitarian Response Division. He emphasized partnership between AFPPD and UNFPA, inviting the two organizations to work together to address current regional and global challenges.



## Webinar between AFPPD Secretariat and Representatives of UNFPA APRO and Country offices

12 February 2025

An online seminar was held between AFPPD Secretariat and UNFPA, sharing the AFPPD's plans and exploring opportunities to promote partnership among the National Committees of AFPPD and UNFPA Country offices in the Asia-Pacific region. In attendance were country representatives of Cambodia, Malaysia, Maldives and Nepal, as well as officers from UNFPA APRO.



## Empowering the family institution: Achieving work-life balance and addressing population development

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - 14 February 2025*

AFPPD Malaysia organized a national workshop on Empowering Family Institution: Achieving Work-Life Balance and Addressing Population Development. Strategies and challenges were discussed to strengthen family institutions and achieve sustainable population development.

Parliamentarians and experts discussed how to identify the best policies and support systems to achieve balance between work and family life, “an important element in forming a harmonious society.”

It is hoped that this discussion sparks new ideas and initiatives in family-related policies and social development. The sessions discussed ‘Family-Centric Policies and Support Systems’ by emphasizing the importance of policies that support the family institution and effective support systems to ensure social well-being.



There was also discussion on 'Technology and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' which highlighted how technology can be used to achieve the SDGs, especially in improving the well-being of families and communities.

## Intercontinental connections

*Dubai, United Arab Emirates - 19-20 Jan. 2025*

The Asian Population & Development Association (APDA), which serves as Secretariat for Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), organized an Asia-Arab Parliamentarians Meeting on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Resilience to Climate Changes. The meeting was hosted by the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development and attended by a wide range of representatives. Discussions focused on pressing regional issues, including population growth, urbanization, migration and climate change, emphasizing enhanced cooperation between parliamentarians from Arab and Asian countries.



*Dar es Salam, Tanzania - 24-25 February 2025*

APDA organized the African and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development: 'The Role of Parliamentarians in Harnessing Population Data to Foster Inclusive Social and Economic Development'. Bringing together Asian and African parliamentarians, this meeting aimed to enhance understanding of national legislative barriers and policy gaps for the implementation of ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) and commitment from Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD). A parliamentary statement with key messages and recommendations for legislative and policy reform was adopted to ensure accelerated implementation of ICPD PoA and AADPD at the national level. This meeting is certified as a TICAD9 Partner Project.



## The 15th General Assembly of AFPPD

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - 3-4 February 2025*

Dr. Farrukh Usmonov, Interim Executive Director of AFPPD, met with the Executive Committee members of AFPPD Malaysia to prepare for the 15th General Assembly of AFPPD which is scheduled on 27 April 2025 in Kuala Lumpur. Hon. Noraini Ahmad, MP, Secretary General of AFPPD Malaysia and Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, expressed her gratitude to Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi and other members of the Executive Committee (ExCom) for entrusting Malaysia to host the upcoming General Assembly. The Malaysian side will ensure this event and the ExCom meetings are conducted to the highest level. Moreover, on 28 April the host will arrange a study tour for delegates to observe ageing-related centers in Malaysia, providing member-states information on how the country cares and protects the elderly to live in peace and health with good quality of life.



## Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD)

*New Delhi, India - 11 December 2024*

The IAPPD Standing Committee convened to deliberate on the pivotal role of parliamentarians in advancing the SDGs, with a focus on teenage pregnancies and child malnutrition. Parliamentarians met with subject experts from organizations such as the International Institute of Population Sciences and UNFPA. The meeting highlighted the value of educating girls, empowering women and fostering community-based solutions, concluding with a commitment to collaboration, highlighting the capacity of parliamentarians' to enact legislative reforms and promote awareness for these critical challenges.

## Remembering Edcel Lagman

30 Jan. 2025: AFPPD is deeply saddened to learn of the passing Rep. Edcel Lagman, MP, Member of the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) and Vice-Chair of AFPPD (Acting Chair 2023-2024), offering heartfelt condolences to his family and the PLCPD members. Rep. Edcel Lagman's greatest contributions to the AFPPD will be remembered.



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