



# Evaluation of implementation of AFPPD's Strategic Plan for 2023-2025

## Highlights

- Key progress: AFPPD was able to reconnect parliamentarians. More than 1,000 participants attended activities that aim to increase their knowledge and capacities to discuss and respond to population and development issues.
- Major global events: A key strategy is to hold parliamentarians' meetings along with or in conjunction with major global events and to adopt Declaration that could be considered by AFPPD member delegations to global events.
- Diversify partnership: New partnerships proved to be a valuable strategy to tap resources and diversity resources.
- Legal status: The Secretariat will be moved and be registered in Malaysia to regain its IP status. Transition will happen in 2026.

## Introduction

Since 2018, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) became a budget holder for the AFPPD. The Executive Committee (ExCom) has decided to move the Secretariat from Bangkok to Tokyo—which starts a period of transition for AFPPD. COVID-19 pandemic hit and face-to-face meetings became impossible; hence, meeting and collaborations among member states were conducted online. The core of the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan was to reinvigorate AFPPD. Its goal is to bring back and reconnect the parliamentarians to AFPPD as a platform for advocating for and formulating policies and legislation on reproductive health, gender equality and women's empowerment, youth development, care for the ageing, and other pressing population issues. It also hopes to regain the trust of development partners and encourage working again with AFPPD, especially to regain AFPPD's legal entity. At member-state level, it hopes for the National Committees (NCs) to reestablish its operation.

## Strategic Plan 2023-2025

The SP 2023-2025 focuses on three program-wide outcomes and one management outcome. The first outcome is related to national-level policy advancement and national-level capacity (National Action Focus); the second outcome is related to regional networking and support; and the third is related to specific policy recommendations to inter-governmental bodies and meetings. The management outcome is for all these program-wide outcomes to be supported by a revitalized, active, central organizing body at AFPPD. It recognizes that the current human resource of the Secretariat would benefit greatly with the collaboration and assistance of National Committees (NCs) of its member states in organizing meeting and various activities.

### Outcome 1: National Action Focus

The first outcome is related to national-level policy advancement and national-level capacity. Specifically, for national/sub-national laws, regulations, and sectoral policies, and plans to be in line with the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and the ICPD+25 (International Conference

on Population and Development), and to increase national/sub-national budgets are allocated in the health sector, especially to SRH, to enable implementation of the laws, regulations, policies, and plans.

The first strategy is for Capacity Development of NCs. National level activities supported with small grants from AFPPD and involving NCs underscore the critical role of NCs in fostering cooperation within AFPPD. Since 2023, four (4) NCs that have previously stopped, have already successfully resumed its operation.

In August 2023, a parliamentarians' workshop in New Delhi, India organized with the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD), addressed issues including high school dropout rates and unemployment among youth in India. In September 2023, a series of discussions in Jakarta, Indonesia, in collaboration with the Badan Kependudukan dan Keluarga Berencana Nasional (BKKBN) and UNFPA Indonesia highlighted the urgent need for local laws to combat child marriage and promote gender equality for young women and girls. In March 2024, NCs in Sri Lanka and Lao PDR are supported to tackle issues specific to youth and related to reaping the demographic dividend (in Sri Lanka an activity to build university students' resilience against depression and empowering the youth to become leaders and in Lao PDR, a workshop on knowledge and strategies necessary to address the critical population and development challenges confronting Lao PDR). In January 2025, in collaboration with Kyrgyzstan National Committee, AFPPD supported the workshop to promote women empowerment and encourage the national legislators to pay attention to programs and policies related to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. In February 2025, a national workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal was organized by National Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (NFPPD) for parliamentarians to review Nepal's progress in SDGs and ICPD agenda. In March 2025, in collaboration with PCAsia and the National Assembly of Cambodia and Cambodian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD), a seminar on non-communicable diseases followed by a national level dialogue on Cambodia Strategic Framework on Population and Development (CSF) 2024–2030 in May 2025.

The second strategy is facilitating learning and outreach. AFPPD continues to increase and improve on its knowledge platforms through holding Standing Committee Meetings. Exchange of good practices, information, data and experiences is the goal of conducting Standing committee meetings and regional conferences, such as this one and the regional conference held in Bali, Indonesia last year.

In 2024 and 2025, three Standing Committee meetings per year was held. In 2024, three (3) standing committees were organized and held its meetings: Standing Committee on Active Ageing in Tokyo, Japan in April 2024; Standing Committee on Investing in Youth in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in June 2024; and, Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Islamabad, Pakistan in August 2024.

In 2025, three standing committee meetings were held as well: on Active Ageing in Malaysia in April 2025; Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Bosnia and Herzegovina in May 2025; and Standing Committee on Investing in Youth in the Maldives in June 2025. Since April this year, AFPPD have added a new pillar to its initial three and the organization of a new standing committee: on investing youth, gender equality and gender empowerment, and active ageing. It has added climate change and green economy.

In terms of visibility, AFPPD launched its website ([afppd.net/](http://afppd.net/)) and keeping it regularly updated. Its social media account ([www.facebook.com/AFPPD2022](https://www.facebook.com/AFPPD2022)) has also consistently posts updates on its

activities. Quarterly newsletters were also released and uploaded on the website (<https://afppd.net/e-news-letter/>). Media outlets have also covered events of AFPPD in different countries. These give not just updates on AFPPD but more importantly contributes in building its credibility and stature within the international community.

Reaching over 1,000+ participants in these meetings and conferences, they mentioned that these are “informative”, “beneficial for parliamentarians and development workers in showcasing and adapting excellent policies to leave no one behind,” and is a “rich source of learning and sustained solutions.” From the Standing Committee in Youth, participants find it “interesting to receive and share experiences” and will use their new learnings “to come up with gender equality policies to help marginalized” and “to incorporate new practices learnt from different countries to strategize” adoption of these in their own countries.

#### Outcome 2: Regional/Global Advocacy, Networking and Partnership

AFPPD have developed partnerships with other fora and parliamentary institutions. AFPPD have partnerships with other CSO, namely, with IPPF, FP2030, and other NGOs on Family Planning advocacy and addressing its three pillars. UNFPA APRO remains a key partner for AFPPD on ICPD. AFPPD has involved other partners to contribute to its programs, such as Pathfinder Asia and FP2030 (specifically for the Bali and Manila Conferences). For instance, while the International Parliamentarians’ Forum on Sustainable Water Resources in Tajikistan in June 2024 was part of EECARO, AFPPD ensures that parliamentarians-members from the Asia-Pacific are in attendance to bridge inter-regional advocacy and partnerships. The parliamentarians from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region attended, as an observer, the Standing Committee meeting in Pakistan in August 2024.

#### Outcome 3: Regional/Global Political Influence

One of the key outcomes of the AFPPD’s strategic plan is to exert political influence regionally and globally. This indicates the importance of making policy recommendations and political commitments at regional and global forums for the consideration of political and government leaders. A recommendation of AFPPD members during the development of the SP 2023-2025 is for AFPPD to ensure its presence in major global events.

2023. In April 2023, the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development Toward the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit (GCPPD) in Tokyo, Japan, AFPPD adopted the Declaration for the G7, and consequently for the G20 in India. In August of the same year, AFPPD and IAPPD hosted a workshop towards ICPD30 Policymaking Initiatives to Address the National and Regional Population Trends in New Delhi, India. The opportune time of global summit of world leaders were seized by AFPPD through organizing of parliamentarian’s meetings held on its occasion.

2024. For this outcome, AFPPD have contributed into two important global events in 2024: Water Action Decade Conference (UN event) in Tajikistan (June 2024) and Regional Parliamentarians’ Meeting on Green Economy in Pakistan (August 2024). Some key points of AFPPD’s Standing Committee Declaration were reflected in the Water Conference’s Declaration, particularly the concept of leaving no one behind, empowerment of women and girls, and ensuring that women and youth are included in decision-making processes. AFPPD’s Islamabad Declaration was promised to be considered by the Pakistani delegation to COP29, sharing the Forum’s voice in this global international event.

2025. This year, AFPPD representatives were attended two intercontinental/ global events organized by APDA to foster cooperation between Asian countries and Arab countries: Asia-Arab Parliamentarians Meeting on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Resilience to Climate Changes in 19-20 January 2025 in Dubai, UAE and African and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development: 'The Role of Parliamentarians in Harnessing Population Data to Foster Inclusive Social and Economic Development' in 24-25 February 2025 in Dar es Salam, Tanzania. There was also the national workshop on "Ensuring Gender Equality and Empowering Women and Girls" in Kyrgyzstan on 17 January 2025 and the training on domestic violence legislation in Turkmenistan for national parliamentarians in 18-20 February 2025. Recognizing that youth are not just future leaders but present-day changemakers, a representative of AFPPD (Secretary General) attended the second Consultative Meeting on Young Parliamentarians of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), which was held on 5-8 May 2025. This is a starting step for establishing new partnership between AFPPD and AIPA.

#### Management Outcome: Organization Focus

*Governance and Accountability.* Consistent availability of AFPPD event documentation, including minutes of meetings; dashboard for tracking of outcomes. AFPPD's activities (2023-2024) were successfully audited by UNFPA Audit in December 2024. In January 2025, UNFPA and AFPPD (through APDA) signed a new Work Plan for 2025 and a new project proposal for 2024-2025 was approved.

In a survey with member states, it was noted that "internal governance and accountability mechanisms have been implemented, including regular reporting, structured work plans, and transparent coordination within the parliamentary working group. These systems help ensure focus, efficiency, and alignment with national development priorities."

*Revitalized Organizational Structure.* To regain its status as Implementing Partner (IP) status with UNFPA, it was agreed in the 97th Executive Committee Meeting in Bali in October 2024 that AFPPD Secretariat will move in late 2025 or early 2026 (i.e., it can register as a legal entity). During the 98th ExCom meeting in April 2025, Malaysia was selected to be the host of the AFPPD Secretariat, including the possibility of registering AFPPD as an international organization or NGO. Malaysia's proposal to host the AFPPD Secretariat includes the possibility of financial support from the Government of Malaysia and ongoing support by the Japan Trust Fund through UNFPA.

Organizationally, Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, MP Japan, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Minister of Justice of Japan, is now the new Chairperson of AFPPD (starting on the 98th ExCom) and Dr. Usmonov Farrukh is officially appointed as the Executive Director of AFPPD for a period of 4 years (starting on the 99th ExCom). AFPPD Secretariat's current strength is in ensuring that it works with National Committees in different countries. Number of employees/staff remain low. There is an objective to add staff to the Secretariat to increase its capacity as soon as necessary resources mobilized.

*Resource Mobilization.* There still a need to diversify resources. Currently, key support by the Japan Trust Fund (JTF). New partnerships were formed, and ongoing partnerships were continued, such as with UNFPA, Parliamentary Centre of Asia (PCAsia), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), FP2030, Pathfinder International reaffirming their support for regional collaboration and shared goals. It was recommended by the resource mobilization consultant to apply for several grants which AFPPD did, however such efforts not yield positive results so far. A recommendation from the survey with member states is to explore private sector collaborations and funding resources from European Union and Australia.

## **Feedback from the member states**

Success was mentioned, saying that “The opportunities AFPPD provides to collaborate with other national committees and address shared regional challenges is invaluable, and enables the national committee's capacity to grow.” Yet there are still challenges, including diversifying funding streams. One of the key lessons that could serve as opportunity is that “networking and partnership opportunities outside of the region feel far fewer than opportunities within the region.” More opportunities and meetings can be explored outside of the region.

## **Conclusion**

The AFPPD has successfully implemented its Strategic Plan 2023-2025, with several milestones with key activities, partnerships, and active collaboration with and among member states.

On Outcome 1 on national-level policy advancement and national-level capacity, the National Committees (NCs) have resumed operations and national level activities involving NCs were supported by AFPPD. These activities tackled issues in line with SDGs and ICPD including issues on youth and children (i.e., dropout rates, unemployment, mental health), gender equality (i.e., child marriage), and health. AFPPD was able to reconnect with parliamentarians to increase their knowledge and capacities to discuss and respond to population and development issues. Increasing knowledge platforms were made through holding Standing Committee meetings and increasing visibility through its website, social media, release of quarterly newsletter, and media coverage.

On Outcome 2 on regional networking and support, AFPPD have developed partnerships with other fora and parliamentary institutions and attends inter-regional advocacy and partnerships. New partnerships proved to be a valuable strategy to tap resources/funding support.

On Outcome 3 on policy recommendations to inter-governmental bodies and meetings, a key strategy is to hold parliamentarians’ meetings along with or in conjunction with major global events and to adopt Declaration that could be considered by AFPPD member delegations to global events. More of these can be further explored in the next SP period.

Lastly, on Management Outcome, there is transparency and accountability through consistent availability of event documentation, minutes, tracking of outcomes, etc. New Chairperson and Executive Director of AFPPD have been selected for the period of 4 years. While there is still a need to diversify resources, a key step to pursue this is to regain AFPPD’s legal identity. As the Secretariat will be moved and be registered in Malaysia to regain its IP status, transition will happen in 2026 with more opportunity to apply for grants and possible increase in human resource/staffing (provided if there is available funds).

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