

**REPORT**  
**The Sub-Regional Parliamentarians Meeting:  
The Advancing Gender Equality in Central Asia, Ensuring Women  
Empowerment in the Region**



**21-22 May 2026**  
**Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic**

## Introduction

The launch and implementation of the regional initiative “Promoting Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Central Asia and the Caucasus” are driven by the need to consolidate the efforts of countries across two geopolitically interconnected regions.

The historical legacy, shared barriers associated with the transition period, and contemporary global challenges require the development of unified and coordinated approaches that extend beyond exclusively national strategies. Following independence, the countries of Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan) and the Caucasus (Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan) faced similar challenges, including economic crises, forced migration, and the partial deinstitutionalization of social protection systems, all of which disproportionately affected women.

Both regions continue to experience a persistent gender pay gap, while women’s employment remains concentrated in the informal sector and in low-paid public-service professions. At the same time, women bear a double burden due to the high volume of unpaid domestic and caregiving work. There has also been a rise in conservative attitudes and religious and cultural traditionalism, which in some cases has led to restrictions on girls’ mobility, reduced access to higher education, and the resurgence of harmful practices such as early marriage, bride kidnapping, and the stigmatization of divorced women.

A high level of domestic, family, and gender-based violence remains a systemic problem. Mechanisms for interagency protection, access to justice, and state funding for shelters and crisis centers remain insufficiently developed. Despite the introduction of legislative quotas (for example, in national parliaments), women continue to be underrepresented in decision-making positions within the executive branch, senior leadership roles, and local government structures. National action plans and strategies often remain largely declarative, as they are not integrated into government program budgets through Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) mechanisms.

The international conference brought together senior members of parliament and representatives of parliamentary committees on health, budgeting, and social policy from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. This interparliamentary delegation was formed with the support of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) to advance gender equality and reproductive health in the region through coordinated action.

## **OPENING SESSION:**

The Subregional Meeting was officially opened with welcoming remarks delivered on behalf of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, the diplomatic corps, and international organizations, including the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), represented by its Country Office in Kyrgyzstan and the Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, participated as one of the leading methodological and technical partners in this field.

Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva, Member of Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic and Vice-Chair of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), officially opened the Subregional Meeting of Parliamentarians and welcomed the participants on behalf of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic and AFPPD. She highlighted the continuity of the dialogue initiated in Ashgabat and emphasized that the gender agenda is not a secondary issue or merely a humanitarian concern, but rather a matter of national and regional security.

She presented the following statistics: in the Kyrgyz Republic, women's representation in Parliament increased from 12.9% to 33% as a result of quota mechanisms. Across Central Asia and the Caucasus, up to 25% of women continue to experience physical and/or sexual violence. The gender pay gap ranges from 22% to 27%, while nearly 50% of women politicians in Central Asia are subjected to cyberbullying and digital harassment.

As key priorities for future action, Hon. Surabaldieva emphasized the need for the full implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the effective implementation of National Gender Equality Strategies through 2030, and the unconditional issuance of protection orders for survivors of domestic violence.

She stressed that achieving gender equality requires political will, leadership, and long-term commitment. It demands the courage to challenge stereotypes, invest in women and girls, strengthen legislation, and ensure that every woman and girl can live in safety, dignity, and freedom from violence and discrimination.

She further noted that parliamentarians bear a special responsibility to ensure that international commitments are translated into tangible improvements in people's lives. The decisions made today, she stated, will shape the future of coming generations. Expressing confidence in the value of regional cooperation, she emphasized that the meeting would serve as an important platform for strengthening partnerships, exchanging experiences, and developing practical recommendations to advance gender equality in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

In concluding her remarks, Hon. Surabaldieva expressed confidence that the participating countries would achieve significant results through their joint efforts and invited the next speaker to take the floor.

**Hon. Bolot Ibragimov**, Vice Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, welcomed participants on behalf of the Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh, Marlen Abdyrakhmanovich Mamataliyev.

He underscored the importance of interparliamentary solidarity and strengthening legislative measures aimed at protecting women's rights, supporting families, and safeguarding children throughout Central Asia. In his remarks, Hon. Ibragimov placed particular emphasis on the strategic importance of enhancing regional interparliamentary cooperation and consolidating efforts to further strengthen the legal and regulatory framework. He highlighted the need for comprehensive legislation designed to protect women's rights, support the institution of the family, and ensure child safety across the region.

As historical examples illustrating the continuity and prominence of women's leadership in the region, Hon. Ibragimov referred to several distinguished Kyrgyz stateswomen and public figures:

- Kurmanjan Datka — a symbol of wise diplomacy, sovereignty, and statecraft;
- Urkuya Saliyeva — an example of dedicated advocacy for social equality and women's rights;
- Kuluipa Konduchalova — a leading figure in cultural revival and public enlightenment.

In conclusion, the Vice Speaker noted that the legacy of these remarkable women serves as a strong foundation for contemporary reforms and legislative initiatives in the fields of gender equality and social protection. He expressed confidence that the current Subregional Meeting of Parliamentarians would serve as an effective platform for substantive dialogue, the exchange of experiences, and the development of joint approaches to addressing shared challenges.

**Hon. Ulan Mamatkanov**, Deputy Chair of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, focused his remarks on the role of the executive branch in advancing gender equality. He stated that the Cabinet of Ministers is committed to ensuring a systematic approach, implementing gender-responsive budgeting, and supporting women's entrepreneurship at the national level.

In his address, he noted that equal rights for men and women are guaranteed by the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic. He further emphasized that the country continues to actively ratify and implement key international instruments, including the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and ILO Convention No. 190 concerning Violence and Harassment in the World of Work.

Hon. Mamatkanov highlighted that, within the framework of the National Development Strategy through 2030, the National Action Plan on Achieving Gender Equality in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2026–2027 has been adopted. The Plan is aimed at expanding women's economic opportunities and promoting women's leadership at all levels of public administration.

Particular attention was given to a significant achievement: as a result of strengthened legislative quotas in elections, women's representation in the eighth convocation of the Jogorku Kenesh reached 33%, while representation in local councils approached 42%.

In conclusion, Hon. Mamatkanov noted that recent legislative reforms have strengthened accountability for domestic violence and called for combining legal protection mechanisms with the revival of progressive national traditions that promote respect for women.

**Ms. Chinwe Ogbonna**, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Kazakhstan and Country Director for the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan, thanked Kyrgyzstan for its leadership in hosting and facilitating the platform.

She reaffirmed UNFPA's commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and confirmed the organization's readiness to continue providing technical and expert support to parliaments across the region.

Ms. Ogbonna commended Kyrgyzstan's achievement in securing a record 33% representation of women in Parliament following the 2025 elections, as well as 42% representation in local councils. She noted that sustained efforts toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals had enabled the country to rank 46th in the 2025 Sustainable Development Report.

She emphasized that, in the context of current challenges, gender equality in Central Asia should be viewed not merely as a humanitarian issue but as a strategic investment in stability and security. She highlighted a number of positive reforms undertaken by the Kyrgyz Republic, including strengthened protections against violence, the ratification of ILO Convention No. 190, and improved coordination mechanisms.

Referring to the country's Voluntary National Review, Ms. Ogbonna stressed the need to accelerate progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality) in order to overcome economic barriers and eliminate gender-based violence. Drawing on the latest UN Women statistics available as of March 2026, she expressed concern about persistent global challenges, including domestic violence, unequal pay, and digital harassment targeting women politicians.

A significant portion of her remarks focused on the critical role of parliaments in addressing these challenges through legislative action, oversight, and the implementation of Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB).

Special attention was also given to Kyrgyzstan's landmark border agreements with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, which were described as having established a solid foundation for building trust across the region. Ms. Ogbonna noted that the United Nations is actively engaging with local communities and women leaders to transform these agreements into tangible economic dividends of peace and stronger social cohesion.

She further emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in addressing shared cross-border challenges, including migration, human trafficking, and climate vulnerability.

In closing, Ms. Ogbonna stated that Central Asia has a unique opportunity to become a model of inclusive development, where women's leadership and rights are recognized as fundamental pillars of prosperity and peace.

**Mr. Syed Sadiq**, Representative of UN Women in the Kyrgyz Republic, speaking on behalf of Antje Grawe, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Kyrgyz Republic, drew attention to emerging challenges, including technology-facilitated violence and the online harassment of women.

He called on parliamentarians to take decisive action to criminalize cyberbullying and other forms of digital abuse.

The speaker noted several encouraging trends, including the growing number of women entering STEM fields, business, digital transformation initiatives, and diplomacy. He also highlighted that issues previously considered taboo—such as reproductive rights and harmful social norms—are now being openly discussed in national forums.

According to the data presented, 23% of women in Central Asia experience physical or sexual violence, while rapid advances in artificial intelligence and digitalization have contributed to an increase in online violence, including cyberbullying, deepfakes, and digital stalking. Globally, 58% of young women experience online abuse, with women leaders, journalists, and researchers among the groups most frequently targeted.

Mr. Sadiq described parliamentarians as the “principal architects of legislation” and urged them to use their unique legislative, budgetary, and oversight powers to eliminate discrimination.

He proposed prioritizing gender-responsive investments, including increased funding for girls’ education, healthcare, digital security, and climate adaptation initiatives.

In conclusion, he stressed that investing in women and young people is not merely a social obligation but also one of the most strategic and forward-looking decisions that the countries of Central Asia can make to ensure long-term stability, resilience, and sustainable development.

**H.E. Hirano Ryuichi**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kyrgyz Republic, expressed the Government of Japan’s support for regional initiatives aimed at advancing women’s empowerment. He emphasized that stability in Central Asia is closely linked to inclusiveness and gender equality.

The Ambassador also expressed his sincere appreciation to the organizers for their warm hospitality and for hosting the Subregional Meeting of Parliamentarians of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). He noted that the Government of Japan has consistently supported AFPPD’s parliamentary activities through the Japan Trust Fund for many years and that the current Subregional Meeting in Bishkek was likewise organized with the Fund’s assistance.

The speaker highlighted the strong spirit of cooperation between Japan and the Kyrgyz Republic within the leadership structures of AFPPD. The Forum is chaired by Kamikawa Yoko, Member of Parliament of Japan and former Minister for Foreign Affairs, while one of its five Vice-Chairs is Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva, Member of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Ambassador referred to several successful examples of Japanese support in the Kyrgyz Republic:

- The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has supported the “One Village, One Product” initiative, which has evolved into a nationwide project in the Kyrgyz Republic. The initiative has made a significant contribution to creating employment opportunities for women, particularly in rural areas.
- A joint initiative of the Government of Japan and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has expanded opportunities for rural women’s economic empowerment and strengthened their role within local communities.

The Ambassador shared personal impressions from his visit to project sites in the Issyk-Kul region in late April 2026, noting the remarkable energy, initiative, and leadership demonstrated by local women.

He also referred to the implementation of gender quotas in Kyrgyzstan’s recent parliamentary elections, which resulted in women securing 31 of the 90 seats in the Jogorku Kenesh. He expressed confidence that women parliamentarians would continue to make meaningful contributions to legislative development and public policy.

The Ambassador noted that relations between Japan and the Kyrgyz Republic, founded on mutual respect, have developed successfully for more than thirty years since the country’s independence. He also recalled the historic visit of President Sadyr Japarov to Tokyo to participate in the first Central Asia + Japan Dialogue Summit, as well as his bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan.

In closing, Ambassador Hirano reaffirmed his personal commitment to further strengthening and deepening the mutually beneficial partnership between Japan and the Kyrgyz Republic.





## Session 1: The Regional Perspectives on Gender Equality

**Moderator: Hon. Bolotbek Borbiev, MP Kyrgyz Republic.**

In his opening remarks, the moderator emphasized that women’s empowerment and participation in decision-making processes have become central issues on both the global and regional agendas. He noted that the countries of Central Asia have made significant progress in advancing gender equality through legislative reforms, the introduction of gender quotas, and the implementation of programs supporting women’s empowerment.

As an example, he highlighted Kyrgyzstan’s achievement in increasing women’s representation in Parliament to 33 percent. At the same time, he drew attention to persistent challenges, including gender stereotypes, unequal pay, and women’s limited access to resources, underscoring the importance of exchanging experiences and strengthening regional cooperation.

The moderator then invited Baktybek Kainazarov, Head of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Office in the Kyrgyz Republic, to deliver the first presentation.

Presentation 1: **Baktybek Kainazarov**, Head of the UN Country Office in Kyrgyzstan, speaking on behalf of Gabriella Alvarez Minte, an expert from the UNFPA Regional Office, presented an overview of the state of gender equality in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA).

Participants heard a comprehensive presentation focusing on gender equality, the protection of the rights of women and girls, and the elimination of structural barriers in the context of ongoing geopolitical and demographic transformations across the EECA region.

The presentation highlighted the continuity of the principles established by the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), both of which affirmed the primacy of human rights, bodily autonomy, and individual choice over purely demographic objectives.

### Key Statistics Presented on the EECA Region

11.7% — estimated loss in the region’s Human Development Index (HDI) attributable to gender inequality.

86.1% — proportion of the population holding at least one gender-biased attitude that negatively affects women’s rights.

47.8% — proportion of respondents who believe that men are more effective political leaders than women.

41.4% — proportion of respondents who believe that men are better suited for corporate leadership positions or should be prioritized for employment when jobs are scarce.

24.3% — proportion of respondents who consider physical violence by a husband against his wife to be justified under certain circumstances.

Approximately 25% (one in four women) — proportion of women lacking basic bodily autonomy, including those affected by reproductive coercion and early marriage.

23.0% — minimum prevalence rate of physical or sexual violence against women in Central Asia according to available studies.

Up to 60.0% — proportion of women internet users who have experienced forms of digital violence, including cyberstalking, doxxing, the non-consensual sharing of intimate images, and online harassment.

### ***Key Challenges Identified***

The resurgence of rigid patriarchal gender roles;

A disproportionate increase in women’s unpaid domestic and caregiving responsibilities;

Restrictions on women's autonomy and decision-making power;

The persistence of early marriage and reproductive pressure that limits women's ability to decide freely on the number and spacing of their children;

Continued high levels of domestic violence;

The persistence of harmful social norms that discourage the disclosure of family violence, stigmatize survivors, and shift blame onto victims;

The rapid growth of technology-facilitated violence against women;

The risk that public policies promoting a single rigid concept of "family" may obscure unequal power relations within households and perpetuate women's subordination.

### ***Positive Developments and Future Directions***

The presentation also identified a number of promising legislative and social practices emerging across the region, including:

The criminalization of domestic violence and the introduction of stricter penalties for perpetrators;

Lowering the age of independent access to reproductive health services to 16 years in order to expand young people's rights and access to services;

Broader legal definitions of workplace harassment and sexual harassment;

A shift away from rigid demographic targets toward policies focused on human capital development and the protection of individual rights;

The introduction of "positive masculinity" programs encouraging young men to share domestic responsibilities and provide emotional support within families.

The presentation concluded by emphasizing the need to adopt, fully implement, and adequately finance laws protecting women and girls from all forms of violence. It further stressed the importance of establishing and funding accessible support and rehabilitation services for survivors of violence, while moving beyond formal quota systems to address the underlying discriminatory structures and power imbalances that perpetuate gender inequality.

Presentation 2: **Cholpon Koichumanova**, the Director of the E.Zh. Maanaev Institute of History and Socio-Legal Education at I. Arabaev Kyrgyz State University devoted her presentation to a historical overview of the evolution of women's rights in Kyrgyzstan.

The speaker informed participants about a field-based sociological study conducted in all regions of Kyrgyzstan on the role of rural women, the findings of which were published in a scholarly monograph. She noted that traditional nomadic culture among the Kyrgyz historically afforded

women a relatively high social status and significant freedoms, citing Kurmanjan Datka as a prominent example. According to the speaker, this historical legacy provides a strong foundation for contemporary gender reforms.

However, she emphasized that the post-Soviet transition period brought significant economic hardship and a partial resurgence of patriarchal stereotypes that continue to restrict women's rights.

Ms. Koichumanova stressed that rural women remain one of the country's most vulnerable yet most important social groups. Their well-being directly affects sustainable development, the preservation of family values, and the future of the state.

Particular attention was given to challenges such as:

- Poverty and unemployment;
- Labor migration;
- Limited access to quality healthcare;
- Unequal access to education;
- Insufficient access to clean drinking water;
- Limited participation in decision-making processes.

The study also examined issues including gender inequality, domestic and sexual violence, the practice of bride kidnapping for forced marriage (ala kachuu), and shortcomings in the implementation of existing gender equality legislation.

Ms. Koichumanova emphasized the need to transform public perceptions of violence and to revise legislative terminology that may inadvertently normalize or downplay such crimes.

As a key solution, she identified specialized education for girls and women as the most effective mechanism for social mobility and for overcoming poverty in rural areas. She further underscored the need for stronger cooperation between academia and government institutions in order to integrate gender standards into the national education system.

**Presentation 3: Zulfiya Kochorbaeva**, Director of the Public Association “Agency of Social Technologies,” addressed the implementation of the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality through 2030.

*The expert highlighted several major achievements, including:*

- ✓ The adoption of legislation guaranteeing equal rights and equal opportunities;

- ✓ The enactment of laws on protection from domestic violence;
- ✓ The introduction of quota systems in both the Jogorku Kenesh and local councils.

At the same time, she *identified several critical barriers* that continue to impede progress.

- Economic Challenges

- Persistent gender pay gaps;

- Concentration of women in low-paid public-sector occupations.

- Security and Protection Challenges

- High levels of domestic violence;

- Weak interagency coordination and response mechanisms;

- Insufficient funding for crisis centers and support services.

- Governance Challenges

Underrepresentation of women in executive-level decision-making positions, including district governors (akims) and heads of local self-government bodies (aiyl okmotu).

As priority areas through 2030, the speaker identified the support for women's entrepreneurship, protection from violence, promotion of women's participation in public service and leadership positions. She emphasized that the principal mechanism for achieving these objectives should be the transition to mandatory Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) within the Ministry of Finance.

### **Key Conclusions from the Presentations**

Taken together, the two presentations demonstrated the complementary roles of academia and civil society in advancing gender equality.

The academic sector, represented by Kyrgyz State University, contributes to the development of the value-based, educational, and research foundations of gender equality. Civil society organizations, represented by the Agency of Social Technologies, play a critical role in monitoring, advocacy, and policy oversight.

Participants emphasized the crucial role of parliaments both in developing legislation that promotes gender equality and in exercising oversight over its implementation.

It was noted that the successful achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality) requires not only well-designed strategies but also adequate financing. Gender-equality objectives

must be fully integrated into the program budgeting framework of the Kyrgyz Republic to ensure meaningful and sustainable implementation.

**DISCUSSION (QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)**

During the open discussion, participants, including parliamentarians from Central Asian and Caucasus countries as well as representatives of international organizations, examined the issues raised during the presentations. The implementation and monitoring of the 30% gender quota at the level of local self-government bodies were highlighted, as well as the need to address the gender pay gap between men and women (estimated at 22–27%). In addition, the persistence of early marriage, the unequal distribution of unpaid domestic and caregiving work, and the development of common regional indicators and a regional roadmap for monitoring violence against women and assessing the effectiveness of crisis centers were widely discussed.



The inclusion of women’s empowerment, the elimination of violence, and the eradication of gender discrimination in the agendas of regional and subregional platforms, including TURKSOY, was also suggested by several participants.

In conclusion, the moderator noted that the first session demonstrated that gender equality in Kyrgyzstan requires a comprehensive and multidimensional approach combining historical reflection, academic research, public policy, and practical advocacy and implementation efforts. Participants acknowledged that, despite significant progress in legislation and institutional reform, serious challenges remain. These include economic inequality, gender-based violence, limited participation of women in decision-making processes, and the vulnerable situation of rural women.

The discussions underscored the importance of strengthening interagency cooperation, expanding women’s access to education and economic opportunities, and ensuring adequate and sustainable financing of gender initiatives and programs. Participants agreed that these measures are essential for achieving lasting progress in gender equality and for fulfilling the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5).

## **Session 2: The National Legislatives on Addressing Gender Equality and Eliminating Gender Based Violence (GBV)**

**Moderator: Chinwe Ogbonna**, UNFPA Country Director in Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan and Representative in Kazakhstan

In her opening remarks, the moderator expressed appreciation to the Government and Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic for a historic achievement: securing 33% representation of women in Parliament following the 2025 elections, the highest level in the country's history, alongside 42% representation in local councils. She noted that these accomplishments demonstrate the state's strong commitment to inclusive governance and illustrate that political will, institutional reforms, and sustained advocacy can produce profound and lasting change.

Ms. Ogbonna emphasized that legislation is a fundamental pillar of democratic governance and must reflect international conventions, standards, and mechanisms while being adapted to national contexts. Particular importance was placed on inclusiveness, equal access to justice, protection from discrimination and violence, and ensuring the full participation of all groups in social, economic, and political life.

She further highlighted the importance of international cooperation and the exchange of legislative experiences among countries, as well as the need to align humanitarian, peacebuilding, and development approaches. Effective legislation, she noted, must be sensitive to conflict contexts and supported by strong institutional mechanisms and monitoring systems to ensure implementation.

The moderator concluded that legislation can deliver meaningful results only when accompanied by inclusive approaches, effective enforcement, and sustained international cooperation.

### **Presentation 1: Hon. Mengli Diwanova, Member of the Parliament of Turkmenistan**

In her presentation, Hon. Diwanova emphasized that gender equality is a key prerequisite for sustainable development, peace, and stability. She noted that Turkmenistan has consistently pursued state policies aimed at empowering women in line with international human rights standards and commitments.

The country has ratified major international instruments on women's rights, including the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). National legislation guarantees equal rights and opportunities for women and men and provides mechanisms for protecting women's rights and ensuring access to justice.

Particular attention has been given to women's participation in political, economic, and public life. Women are actively represented across various sectors of the economy, entrepreneurship, and public administration. The speaker also emphasized the importance of the Central Asian Women's Dialogue as a regional platform for cooperation on gender-related issues.

The presentation highlighted the implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2021–2025 and the preparation of a new action plan for 2026–2030, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Special attention was devoted to:

- Prevention of gender-based violence;
- Legislative improvements;
- National studies on the status of women;
- Introduction of interagency response mechanisms for cases of violence.

According to data cited from UN Women, nearly one in three women worldwide experiences physical or sexual violence during her lifetime. Every ten minutes, a woman or girl is killed by an intimate partner or family member. The speaker further noted that, as of March 2026, women globally enjoy only 64% of the legal rights available to men, meaning that women have access to approximately two-thirds of the legal protections afforded to men.

In conclusion, Hon. Diwanova stressed that gender equality and women’s empowerment remain among the highest priorities of national policy and sustainable development. In this regard, parliaments have a particularly important role to play through legislative action, parliamentary oversight, and gender-responsive budgeting, ensuring accountability for the implementation of adopted decisions. At the regional level, strengthening women’s leadership was identified as equally important for addressing broader development and security challenges.

#### Presentation 2: **Hon. Eka Sepashvili, Member of the Parliament of Georgia**

Hon. Sepashvili presented Georgia’s experience in promoting gender equality and combating gender-based violence. She stated that gender equality is regarded in Georgia as a cornerstone of democratic development, effective governance, and the protection of human rights. Over the past decade, the country has undertaken a series of reforms aimed at strengthening legislative and institutional mechanisms for protecting women and preventing violence.

Georgia actively fulfills its international commitments on women’s rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

Significant legislative reforms have been introduced, including the establishment of the principle of substantive equality between women and men, the criminalization of stalking, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and forced sterilization, as well as the recognition of gender-based motives

as aggravating circumstances in criminal offenses. Particular attention has been devoted to preventing and responding to violence against women. In this regard, Georgia has introduced:

- Risk assessment mechanisms for repeat violence;
- Electronic monitoring of offenders;
- Expanded networks of hotlines, crisis centers, and shelters.

Importantly, state support services are available without requiring women to obtain official victim status, which significantly simplifies access to assistance. The country also provides state compensation to survivors of domestic violence, as well as financial support for children of femicide victims.

Hon. Sepashvili noted that local authorities play a significant role in promoting women’s rights and supporting survivors of violence. More than 40 municipalities have established “Women’s Rooms”—community spaces offering counseling services, educational programs, entrepreneurship support, and channels for engagement with government institutions. Municipalities additionally provide social, psychological, and financial assistance to survivors of violence.

Georgia has implemented a range of initiatives aimed at improving women’s health, employment opportunities, and economic independence. These government-funded programs include prenatal care services, cancer screening programs, HPV vaccination, as well as professional retraining and employment programs, particularly targeting vulnerable groups of women.

At the same time, several challenges remain, including entrenched gender stereotypes, low levels of women’s political representation, and the increasing prevalence of digital forms of violence. Accordingly, particular emphasis is placed on:

- Education;
- Public awareness-raising;
- Engaging men and boys in advancing gender equality.

In conclusion, Hon. Sepashvili noted that Georgia is gradually moving beyond the formal recognition of equality toward its practical realization in everyday life through effective laws, functioning institutions, accessible services, and genuine opportunities for women.

### Presentation 3: **Zalkarbek Aknazarov, Deputy Prosecutor General of the Kyrgyz Republic**

Mr. Aknazarov noted that Kyrgyzstan has consistently implemented its international commitments concerning women’s rights and gender equality, including the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He explained that the foundations of national policy in this area are the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women, and the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence. Particular attention was given to the practical implementation of these legal frameworks. Mr. Aknazarov emphasized that gender equality entails ensuring equal opportunities for women and men in education, employment, political participation, social protection, and access to justice.

As a positive example of legislative progress, he highlighted the increase in women's representation in the Jogorku Kenesh to 33%, achieved through the application of legislative quota mechanisms.

The speaker noted that national legislation provides a range of protective measures, including:

- ✧ Temporary protection orders;
- ✧ Preventive interventions;
- ✧ Interagency cooperation mechanisms;
- ✧ Assistance provided through crisis centers and social services.

He emphasized that women, children, older persons, and dependent individuals remain the most vulnerable to domestic violence.

The Prosecutor General's Office plays a key oversight role by monitoring compliance with the law, responding to cases of inaction by public officials, and ensuring the timely review of complaints related to violence.

Mr. Aknazarov stressed the importance of risk assessment procedures and the effective use of protection orders, as well as the need to ensure coordination among law enforcement agencies, social protection services, healthcare institutions, and local self-government bodies.

The speaker presented the following results of prosecutorial oversight activities during 2025:

- 48 inspections conducted in the field of gender equality;
- 135 inspections carried out regarding domestic violence issues;
- Hundreds of legal violations identified;
- Disciplinary and legal accountability measures imposed on responsible officials.

Mr. Aknazarov also highlighted new challenges arising from digital forms of violence, including:

- Online harassment;
- Blackmail and extortion;
- Unauthorized dissemination of personal information;

- Cyberbullying.

In conclusion, the speaker emphasized the need to further strengthen interagency cooperation, increase accountability among public officials, and expand international cooperation to facilitate the exchange of effective practices for protecting survivors of violence.

## DISCUSSION (Q&A)

During the open discussion, participants reviewed and discussed the presentations delivered during the session. They focused on advancing gender equality and improving national legislation, as well as strengthening mechanisms for protecting women from gender-based and domestic violence across Central Asia and neighboring countries.

Special attention was given to the implementation of international commitments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Agenda), as well as the importance of inclusive approaches, interagency coordination, and international cooperation.



Participants raised issues related to expanding women's participation in political, economic, and public life; developing support systems for survivors of violence; preventing digital forms of violence; improving access to justice and legal protection mechanisms; and exchanging successful regional practices and experiences.

To conclude, Ms. Chinwe Ogbonna, moderator of the second session, emphasized that achieving gender equality and effectively combating gender-based violence require not only improved legislation but also its practical implementation through sustainable institutional mechanisms, interagency coordination, and international cooperation. She noted that countries across the region have demonstrated encouraging progress in strengthening women's rights, expanding access to

protection and justice, and introducing innovative mechanisms to address emerging challenges, including digital forms of violence.

The moderator thanked participants for the substantive exchange of experiences and highlighted the importance of continuing regional dialogue, developing joint initiatives, and consolidating efforts to build a more just, inclusive, and safe society for women and girls.

### **Session 3: Addressing Online Harassment and Cyberbullying against Women and Girls**

**Moderator: Hon. Malahat Ibrahim gizi, Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

In her opening remarks, the moderator emphasized that in today's increasingly digital world, online spaces have become essential platforms for communication, education, and civic participation. At the same time, however, they have generated serious challenges, including the rise of online violence and cyberbullying, which disproportionately affect women and girls.

She noted that such forms of digital violence violate fundamental human rights, including the rights to dignity, privacy, and freedom of expression, while also creating barriers to equal participation in public life. The consequences are far-reaching, affecting mental health, professional opportunities, and the overall empowerment of women and girls.

The purpose of the session was to examine the scale and impact of online violence, review existing legal and policy frameworks, and identify effective strategies for prevention, protection, and accountability. The session also aimed to facilitate the exchange of best practices, strengthen international cooperation, and promote the creation of an inclusive and safe digital environment.

**Presentation 1: Hon. Irina Smirnova, Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

Hon. Smirnova devoted her presentation to the issue of online violence and cyberbullying against women and girls in the digital age.

She noted that the rapid development of digital technologies and artificial intelligence, while creating new opportunities, has also contributed to the spread of various forms of digital violence, including cyberbullying, cyberstalking, non-consensual distribution of intimate content, blackmail and extortion, and online hate speech.

Particular attention was paid to the disproportionate impact of online violence on women journalists, activists, and human rights defenders. The speaker highlighted broader social consequences, including deterioration of psychological well-being, self-censorship, and reduced participation of women in public and political life.

Kazakhstan's response to these challenges was presented, including:

- ✓ Legislative amendments adopted in 2024;
- ✓ Introduction of administrative liability for bullying and cyberbullying involving minors;
- ✓ Cooperation with international organizations on prevention and response measures.

In conclusion, Ms. Smirnova identified several priority areas for future action:

- Further strengthening of legislation;
- Increased accountability of online platforms;
- Development of digital literacy programs;
- Expansion of support systems for victims;
- Enhanced international cooperation to ensure a safe digital environment for women and girls.

#### **Presentation 2: Hon. Malika Kadir Khanova, Member of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

In her presentation, Ms. Kadir Khanova focused on the issue of technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) in digital environments. She highlighted various forms of online abuse, including cyberbullying, cyberstalking, doxxing, non-consensual distribution of intimate materials, deepfakes, and online sexual harassment.

The speaker emphasized that women and girls are particularly vulnerable to such forms of violence due to existing gender stereotypes and discrimination. Drawing on international data, she noted that a significant proportion of women experience online violence, while women journalists and adolescent girls are especially exposed to digital threats.

The presentation identified several factors contributing to the spread of online aggression:

- Low levels of digital and legal literacy;
- Weak protection of personal data;
- Internet anonymity;
- Insufficient accountability mechanisms.

Special attention was given to law-enforcement challenges, including difficulties in identifying perpetrators, deletion of digital evidence, limited judicial practice and absence of specific legal norms addressing certain emerging digital threats.

To protect victims' rights, Uzbekistan has established legal safeguards through:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- The Law “On the Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence”;
- The Law “On the Protection of Children from All Forms of Violence”;
- The Law “On Cybersecurity”;
- Relevant provisions of the Administrative Liability Code and the Criminal Code.

Despite these mechanisms, the speaker stressed the need for further legislative development to address evolving digital threats. This includes the improvement of legislation, enhancement of digital literacy among the population, development of psychological and legal support services for victims, strengthening the accountability of internet platforms, and promotion of a culture of respectful and safe online communication.

In conclusion, she emphasized that combating online violence requires a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach, international cooperation, and coordinated efforts among governments, educational institutions, digital platforms, and civil society to create a safe digital environment for women and girls.

### **Presentation 3: Daniyar Saparbaev on behalf of Major General Erkebek Ashirkhodjaev, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic**

Mr. Saparbaev presented an overview of the situation regarding digital violence against women and girls in Kyrgyzstan, outlining its main forms, legal dimensions, and preventive measures.

He emphasized the scale of the problem, noting that more than half of women in Eastern Europe and Central Asia have experienced some form of digital violence. In Kyrgyzstan, at least 42% of surveyed women reported having experienced digital violence, according to findings from a UN Women study conducted in 2024.

The presentation identified several major challenges, including rapid digitalization, anonymity of offenders, a shortage of cybercrime specialists, and insufficient international cooperation. The speaker presented a real-life case involving psychological pressure and blackmail through messaging applications. The perpetrator was successfully prosecuted under the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic, demonstrating that existing legal mechanisms can be effectively applied to digital forms of abuse. The legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic provides for liability under both the Criminal Code and the Code of Offenses, including provisions related to violations of privacy, defamation, extortion, and dissemination of false information. From a law-enforcement perspective, the following preventive measures were proposed:

- Educational and awareness-raising programs;
- Improved digital literacy;

- Strengthening legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms;
- Promotion of critical thinking skills;
- Digital hygiene and online safety practices;
- Enhanced interagency coordination and cooperation.

## Conclusion

The presentation concluded that effectively combating digital violence requires a combination of prevention, education, legal accountability, institutional capacity-building, and coordinated action among government agencies, civil society, international organizations, and digital platforms. Special emphasis was placed on protecting women and girls from emerging forms of technology-facilitated violence, while ensuring their safe and meaningful participation in digital spaces.

## **DISCUSSION (QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)**

During the open discussion, participants focused on the growing challenges of online violence and cyberbullying against women and girls, including cyberstalking, online harassment and intimidation, blackmail and extortion, non-consensual dissemination of intimate materials, hate speech, and abusive online content.

The discussion highlighted the rapid increase in digital threats, the difficulties associated with identifying and prosecuting perpetrators, and the need to strengthen legislative frameworks, improve digital literacy, expand support services for victims, and enhance international cooperation in order to create a safer digital environment.

In her concluding remarks, Hon. Malahat Ibrahim gizi, moderator of the third session, emphasized that combating online harassment and cyberbullying against women and girls has become one of the defining challenges of the modern digital era. She noted that digital violence is becoming increasingly complex and widespread, affecting the rights, safety, psychological well-being, and opportunities of women and girls to participate fully in public, political, and professional life.

The moderator observed that Central Asian countries have already begun taking steps to strengthen legislation, improve accountability mechanisms, and enhance systems for protecting survivors of digital violence. The participants reaffirmed the importance of coordinated action among national parliaments, government institutions, civil society organizations, international organizations, and digital platforms and technology companies.

They emphasized that only through collective efforts can countries create a digital environment that is safe, inclusive, equitable, and supportive of the rights and opportunities of women and girls.



#### **Session 4: Parliamentarians Role on Addressing Empowerment of Women and Girls**

**Moderator: Hon. Jamila Bobonazarova, Member of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

The fourth session was devoted to one of the key priorities of contemporary development: strengthening the role of parliaments in shaping effective gender policies, ensuring equal opportunities, and creating legislative mechanisms that support women and girls. According to international organizations, increased participation of women in political, economic, and public life has a direct impact on the resilience of state institutions, the quality of human capital, and the pace of socio-economic development.

For the countries of Central Asia, this issue is of strategic importance. The region's young population, currently undergoing rapid digital transformation and modernization, requires greater involvement of women in decision-making processes, the innovation economy, education, and public administration.

The moderator emphasized the special role of parliamentarians as initiators of legislation, agents of parliamentary oversight, and promoters of international cooperation. The session focused on the following priority areas:

Improving legislation to ensure gender equality;

Expanding women's political participation;

Supporting women in education, employment, and entrepreneurship;

Strengthening parliamentary mechanisms for protecting the rights of women and girls;

Promoting regional cooperation on gender policy issues.

**Presentation 1: Hon. Munavvar Abdusalomzoda, Member of Parliament from Tajikistan**

Hon. Abdusalomzoda highlighted the special role of parliamentarians in advancing the empowerment of women and girls in the Republic of Tajikistan, emphasizing that women's participation in decision-making is a crucial prerequisite for sustainable development, social stability, and democratic progress. She noted that since gaining independence, Tajikistan has consistently strengthened its legislative framework for gender equality. Key milestones included:

The adoption of the Constitution guaranteeing equal rights for men and women;

The 1999 Presidential Decree on enhancing the status of women;

The 2005 Law on State Guarantees of Equality between Women and Men.

The speaker emphasized the important role of the Parliament of Tajikistan as an institution for promoting gender policy and strengthening peace and social cohesion.

Significant progress has been made in women's representation within the legislative system. Whereas women accounted for only 2.76% of members of parliament in 1997, their share had increased to approximately 30% by 2025. The presentation also highlighted the contribution of women parliamentarians to the adoption of socially oriented legislation and their efforts to support families, young people, and vulnerable population groups.

Particular attention was given to the activities of the Union of Women Parliamentarians and the active involvement of female legislators in international cooperation initiatives. In closing, Hon. Abdulasomzoda stressed the importance of further strengthening women's leadership, expanding access to education, promoting decent employment opportunities, increasing women's participation in state governance and public life, and enhancing regional and international cooperation to advance equality and sustainable development.

#### **Presentation 2: Hon. Mehriban Hidayat gizi Valiyeva, member of Parliament from Azerbaijan**

In her presentation, Hon. Valiyeva emphasized that the empowerment of women and girls is one of the most important indicators of democratic development, respect for human rights, and the resilience of the state. She noted that Azerbaijan has a longstanding tradition of supporting women's participation in public and political life. As early as 1918, Azerbaijan became the first Muslim-majority country to grant women the right to vote.

Special attention was devoted to the development of national legislation and institutional mechanisms aimed at promoting gender equality, including the establishment of specialized government institutions, the adoption of laws guaranteeing gender equality, and legislation on the prevention of domestic violence. The speaker underscored the critical role of parliaments in creating legal guarantees, exercising parliamentary oversight, and ensuring women's participation in decision-making processes.

Several reforms aimed at protecting women's rights and strengthening family welfare were highlighted, including raising the legal marriage age, prohibiting early marriages, and introducing

measures to protect the health of women and children. The presentation also outlined Azerbaijan's achievements in education, public service, and women's entrepreneurship.

In concluding her remarks, Hon. Valiyeva emphasized the importance of inter-parliamentary cooperation and the exchange of experience among the countries of Central Asia and the broader Turkic world as essential tools for further advancing gender equality and expanding opportunities for women.

### **Presentation 3: Hon. Gulsharkan Kultaeva, Member of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic**

Hon. Kultaeva emphasized the importance of protecting the rights of women and girls as a foundation for sustainable development, security, and a just society. She presented gender equality not only as a matter of women's rights but also as a key factor in the resilience of the state and the economy.

The speaker stressed the need to move beyond declarations and commitments toward tangible and practical change. She noted that the Kyrgyz Republic has consistently advanced its international commitments in this field. The country has acceded to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), endorsed the Beijing Platform for Action, and implemented the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while continuing to strengthen its national legislative framework.

In her remarks, Hon. Kultaeva highlighted several important legislative reforms undertaken in the Kyrgyz Republic, including strengthening liability for domestic and sexual violence, combating bride kidnapping and forced marriages, and developing comprehensive support and assistance mechanisms for survivors of violence. She also underscored the importance of women's political participation, noting that the introduction of gender quotas has contributed significantly to increasing women's representation in Parliament.

The presentation further emphasized the importance of strengthening regional cooperation among Central Asian countries through the establishment of inter-parliamentary mechanisms on gender equality, joint efforts to combat online violence, support for women's leadership initiatives, and the introduction and expansion of gender-responsive budgeting. In closing, the speaker called for the development of a fair, inclusive, and people-centered model of development in which women are recognized as full participants and leaders of social transformation.

## **DISCUSSION (QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)**

During the open discussion, participants considered the issues raised in the presentations, in particular the role of parliaments in advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls across Central Asia, including the importance of legislative reforms, expanding women's political participation, combating domestic and sexual violence, and supporting women's education, employment, and

entrepreneurship. In addition, participants discussed ways of strengthening mechanisms for the protection of women’s rights, integrating gender-sensitive approaches into public policy, promoting women’s leadership, and expanding regional and inter-parliamentary cooperation as a means of achieving sustainable and inclusive development.

Hon. Jamila Bobonazarova, moderator of the fourth session, noted that contemporary challenges require parliaments not only to improve legislation but also to foster a new culture of women’s political and social participation. She emphasized that parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to ensure a systematic approach to these issues through improving legal frameworks, strengthening parliamentary oversight, supporting social initiatives, and expanding international cooperation.

The moderator stressed that countries across Central Asia are increasingly recognizing that women’s empowerment is not merely a matter of social justice but also a critical driver of economic growth, human capital development, social stability, and national competitiveness.

She noted that the exchange of experiences and practical approaches during the session would contribute to stronger regional parliamentary cooperation and help develop more effective mechanisms for supporting women and girls. In conclusion, participants reaffirmed the need to continue advancing practical measures to promote gender equality, strengthen regional cooperation and coordination, and consolidate joint efforts aimed at building a more inclusive and equitable society.

The forum was formally concluded by Dr. Usmonov Farukh, Executive Director of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), and Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva, Member of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic. In their closing remarks, they emphasized that investments in women’s safety, security, education, digital protection, and cybersecurity represent the most effective strategic pathway toward ensuring long-term stability, resilience, and sustainable development throughout Central Asia. They underscored that strengthening the rights, opportunities, and leadership of women is not only a matter of equality but also an essential prerequisite for regional peace, prosperity, and security.



## Day 2: Study Visit Program

The delegates visited One Village One Product, a project supported by JICA in Bishkek Kyrgyzstan. The One Village One Product (OVOP) is one of the most successful international adaptations of the OVOP movement that originated in Oita Prefecture in the late 20th century. The idea is communities identify unique local resources, create high-value products from them, and build local businesses around those products.

The project was launched in 2006–2007 with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). It began in the region of Issyk-Kul Region, where local wool, honey, fruits, and traditional crafts offered opportunities for value-added production. The goal was to address rural poverty, unemployment, and migration by creating income-generating activities within communities.

A key innovation was the creation of OVOP+1, a public organization that acts as an intermediary between producers and markets. Rather than leaving villagers to market products on their own, OVOP+1 helps with product development, quality control, branding and packaging, training, distribution and retail sales as well as to export promotion

The project has produced thousands of products, including felt handicrafts made from local wool, honey (including specialty mountain honeys), dried fruits, sea-buckthorn products, pomegranate juice, natural cosmetics and traditional food products and souvenirs. Some felt products became internationally recognized after being selected by MUJI for sale in its stores.

Around 90% of participants are women, making women's economic empowerment one of the project's most notable outcomes. Products are sold domestically and exported to markets including Japan, Europe, and the United States.

### National recognition

As a result, Kyrgyzstan's OVOP program is now being used as a model for expansion into other Central Asian countries and Caucuses, including Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Georgia.



Next visit was courtesy to the first deputy Speaker of the Parliament Hon. Mederbek Aliev. The meeting was attended by members of the Jogorku Kenesh Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva, Hon. Kamila Talieva, Hon. Gulsharkan Kultaeva and Hon. Bolotbek Borbiev.

Hon. Mederbek Aliyev warmly welcomed the guests and noted that the fact that the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development is being held in Bishkek again after 10 years is of particular importance in strengthening interaction and further developing inter-parliamentary cooperation.

He stated that the countries of Central Asia are paying special attention to strengthening regional security, sustainable development and strengthening humanitarian cooperation. The issues of gender equality and women's rights and empowerment have become an important part of state policy. Because these issues are directly related to the quality of human capital, the stability of state institutions and the ability of society to effectively respond to the challenges of the time.

He also noted that Kyrgyzstan, consistently adhering to the principle of equal opportunities, is creating conditions for women to actively participate in the country's public and political life, cited as an example the fact that, according to the report of the UN Inter-Parliamentary Union, Kyrgyzstan is one of the world's leading countries in terms of the level of representation of women in parliament and the rate of growth.

During the meeting, the parties discussed issues of expanding regional cooperation, exchanging experiences in promoting gender equality, and increasing the role of women in decision-making at the state and public levels.



## Appendix 1: Statement

### STATEMENT OF THE ASIAN FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (AFPPD)

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), following the Subregional Meeting held in Bishkek, reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda).

We recognize that the security and economic prosperity of Central Asia and the Caucasus cannot be achieved without the complete eradication of both domestic and technology-facilitated violence. AFPPD calls upon the parliaments of participating countries to take immediate action to criminalize cyberbullying, deepfakes, online harassment, and other forms of digital abuse that undermine the foundations of democratic institutions.

We emphasize the need for the widespread implementation of robust gender quotas, the protection of bodily autonomy, the elimination of the persistent gender pay gap, which remains as high as 27 percent in some countries, and the transition toward comprehensive gender-responsive budgeting. AFPPD expresses its deep appreciation to the Government of Japan and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their continued support and reaffirms its readiness to serve as a leading platform for inter-parliamentary solidarity in advancing an inclusive and secure future for the region.

Based on a comprehensive assessment of the challenges facing Central Asia and the Caucasus, AFPPD consolidates the recommendations of participants into the following strategic areas:

#### *1. Strengthen parliamentary oversight of gender equality and violence prevention legislation*

Enhance the oversight and accountability functions of parliaments to ensure the effective implementation of existing laws related to gender equality and protection from violence.

#### **Key measures include:**

Strengthening parliamentary monitoring and review mechanisms;

Requiring regular government reporting on financing and progress related to the implementation of SDG 5 (Gender Equality);

Establishing measurable indicators and accountability frameworks for assessing policy outcomes.

#### *2. Develop Legislative Frameworks to Combat Digital Violence, Cyberbullying, and Online Hate Speech Against Women*

Design and implement specialized legal mechanisms to address emerging forms of technology-facilitated violence, including:

Cyberstalking;

Online harassment;

Non-consensual dissemination of intimate content;

Blackmail and extortion using deepfake technologies;

Gender-based hate speech and digital abuse.

At the same time, governments should harness the potential of artificial intelligence and innovative technologies to support prevention efforts, improve detection mechanisms, and strengthen protection and assistance services for survivors.

### *3. Integrate Gender-Responsive Approaches Across All Areas of Public Policy*

Mainstream gender considerations into all sectors of government policy, including:

Economic development;

Climate action and environmental policy;

Digital transformation and innovation;

Public administration and social services.

To achieve this objective, gender audits and gender-responsive budgeting should become mandatory components of evaluating all government programs and initiatives.

Public resource allocation should be directly linked to assessments of each program's contribution to reducing gender disparities and advancing equality outcomes.

### *4. Strengthen Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Between Central Asia and the Caucasus*

Deepen regional parliamentary cooperation to facilitate the exchange of successful practices, policy innovations, and legislative experiences.

#### **Participants recommend to:**

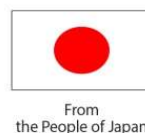
Establish a Regional Network of Women Parliamentarians;

Expand regular inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation;

Organize practical working meetings and exchange programs;

Jointly develop and harmonize legislative initiatives across Central Asia and the Caucasus.

## Appendix 2: Program



### The Sub-Regional Parliamentarians Meeting: The Advancing Gender Equality in Central Asia, Ensuring Women Empowerment in the Region

21–22 May, 2026 | Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

#### Agenda

Day 1	20 May 2026 Arrival of Delegates
Day 2	21 May 2026 Meeting. <b>Venue:</b> Large Conference Hall, Plaza Bishkek Hotel
08:30-09:00	Registration of Participants
09:00-09:30	<b>Opening Session</b> <b>MC: Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva</b> , MP Kyrgyz Republic, Vice-Chair of AFPPD <i>Address by:</i>  <b>Hon. Bolot Adyibekovich Ibragimov</b> , Vice-Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic <b>Hon. Ulan Erkinovich Mamatkanov</b> , Deputy Chair of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic <b>Syed Sadiq</b> , Representative of UN Women in the Kyrgyz Republic, speaking on behalf of Antje Grawe, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Kyrgyz Republic <b>H.E. Hirano Ryuichi</b> , Ambassador of Japan to Kyrgyz Republic
09:30-10:00	<b>Group Photo &amp; coffee-break</b>
10:00-11:00	<b>Session 1: The Regional Perspectives on Gender Equality</b> <i>Presentation by:</i> UNFPA Representative [10 mins] (TBC)

	<p><b>E.Zh. Maanaev</b>, Director of the Institute of History and Socio-Legal Education named after. Kyrgyz State University named after. I. Arabaeva Koichumanova <i>Cholpon Urushbekovna</i>— 10 minutes</p> <p>• <b>Zulfiya Irisovna Kochorbaeva</b>, Director of the NGO "Agency of Social Technologies" co-coordinator of the Alliance of Women's Legislative Initiatives - 10 minutes</p> <p>Q&amp;A [30 mins]</p> <p><b>Chair: Hon. Borbiev Bolotbek</b>, MP Kyrgyz Republic</p>
11:00-12:00	<p><b>Session 2: The National Legislatives on Addressing Gender Equality and Eliminating Gender Based Violence (GBV)</b></p> <p><i>Presentation by: Hon. Diwanova Mengli</i>, MP Turkmenistan [10 mins]</p> <p><i>Presentation by: Hon. Eka Sepashvili</i>, MP Georgia [10 mins]</p> <p><i>Presentation by: Zalkarbek Aknazarov</i>, Deputy Prosecutor General of the Kyrgyz Republic [10 mins]</p> <p>Q&amp;A [30 mins]</p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Chinwe Ogbonna</b>, UNFPA Country Director in Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan and Representative in Kazakhstan</p>
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:00	<p><b>Session 3: Addressing Online Harassment and Cyberbullying against Women and Girls</b></p> <p><i>Presentation: Hon. Irina Smirnova</i>, MP Kazakhstan [10 mins] (TBC)</p> <p><i>Presentation: Hon. Malika Kadir Khanova</i>, MP Uzbekistan [10 mins]</p> <p><i>Presentation by: Daniyar Saparbaev</i> on behalf of Major General Erkebek Ashirkhodjaev, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kyrgyz Republic [10 mins]</p> <p>Q&amp;A [30 mins]</p> <p><b>Chair: Hon. Malahat Ibrahimqizi</b>, MP Azerbaijan</p>
14:00-15:00	<p><b>Session 4: Parliamentarians Role on Addressing Empowerment of Women and Girls</b></p> <p><i>Presentation by: Hon. Munavvar Abdusalomzoda</i>, MP Tajikistan [10 mins]</p> <p><i>Presentation by: Hon. Kultaeva Gulsharkan</i>, MP Kyrgyzstan [10 mins]</p> <p><i>Presentation by: Hon. Mehriban Valiyeva</i>, MP Azerbaijan [10 mins]</p> <p>Q&amp;A [30 mins]</p> <p><b>Chair: Hon. Jamila Bobonazarova</b>, Member of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, Uzbekistan</p>
15:00-15:30	<b>Coffee-break</b>
15:30-16:30	<b>Conclusions and agreements</b>

	<p><b>Dr. Usmonov Farrukh</b>, reads out the main points of discussion and recommendations drafted by the rapporteur.</p> <p><b>Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva</b>, MP Kyrgyz Republic, Vice-Chair of AFPPD</p> <p><b>Ms. Chinwe Ogbonna</b>, UNFPA Country Director in Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan and Representative in Kazakhstan</p>
Day 3	<p><b>22 May 2026</b></p> <p><b>The Study Visit</b></p>
09:40-10:00	Meeting at the Lobby
10:30-10:50	Travel to JICA supported project “One Village One Product”
10:50-12:00	Briefing
12:00-12:20	Travel to Restaurant
12:20-13:20	Lunch
13:20-13:40	Travel to Jogorku Kenesh
13:40-14:00	The delegates pay courtesy to the First Deputy Speaker of Jogorgu Kenesh
14:00	Return to Hotel and Free Time
Day 4	<p><b>23 May 2026</b></p> <p><b>Departure of Delegates</b></p>

Organized by:

**The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)**

**The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)**

Host Organization

**Jogorku Kenesh, Republic of Kyrgyzstan**

Funded by:

**The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

**The Japan Trust Fund (JTF)**