

***Asian and Arab Parliamentarians' Meeting and Study Visit on
Population and Development***

**From Youth Bulge to Demographic Dividend: Toward Regional Development and
Achievement of the SDGs**



18-20 July 2017

Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
LIST OF ACRONYMS:	4
FOREWORD.....	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
DAY ONE: TUESDAY 18 JULY 2017	9
OPENING CEREMONY	9
<i>ADDRESS OF ORGANIZER</i> HON. ICHIRO AISAWA, ACTING CHAIR OF JPFP; DIRECTOR OF APDA, JAPAN	9
<i>ADDRESS OF HOST ORGANIZATION</i> HON. MARWAN AL-HMOUD, SENATOR JORDAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF FAPPD	11
<i>ADDRESS</i> DR. LUAY SHABANEH, UNFPA DIRECTOR FOR THE ARAB REGION	11
<i>ADDRESS</i> MR. TARIK GHEDIRA, CHAIR OF IPPF ARAB WORLD REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	12
<i>OPENING STATEMENT</i> H.E. DR. MAROUF BAKHIT, ACTING SPEAKER OF THE JORDANIAN SENATE	12
<i>KEYNOTE ADDRESS: "POPULATION, REGIONAL STABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"</i> HON. TERUHIKO MASHIKO, VICE CHAIR OF JPFP; MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF APDA, MP JAPAN	13
<i>KEYNOTE ADDRESS:</i> HON. SAMIR HABASHNEH, FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL OF FAAPPD, FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER, JORDAN	16
SESSION 1: THE CHALLENGES OF THE REGION: YOUNG REFUGEES, DISPLACED PERSONS AND IMMIGRATION.....	18
<i>"YOUNG REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS"</i> HON. ABDELMADJID TAGGUICHE, MP ALGERIA	18
<i>"ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF EMIGRATION, WATER CRISES AND FOOD INSECURITY"</i> HON. DR. ABDELHADY EL KASBEY, MP EGYPT	19
<i>"PROMOTING SOCIAL STABILITY AND PEACEFUL SOCIETY"</i> HON. DR. REDA KHAWALDEH, MP JORDAN	20
<i>DISCUSSION</i>	20
SESSION 2: DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH	22
<i>"DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND AND POPULATION ISSUES"</i> HON. JUMAA KAABI, MP BAHRAIN	22
<i>"INVESTMENT IN YOUTH: ROLE OF EDUCATION ON YOUTH'S DECENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY"</i> HON. TOMASITO VILLARIN, MP PHILIPPINES	23
<i>"PRACTICE OF AZERBAIJAN ON YOUTH POLICY"</i> HON. SHAHIN ISMAYILOV, MP AZERBAIJAN	24
<i>"EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AS A FACTOR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"</i> MR. HAITHAM KHASAWNEH, SECRETARY GENERAL, MINISTRY OF LABOR, JORDAN	24
<i>DISCUSSION</i>	25
SESSION 3: HEALTH SOCIETY AND GENDER EQUALITY: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT, UHC AND YOUTH ACCESS TO RH26	
<i>"UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING"</i> HON. DR. SAHAR QAWASMI, MP PALESTINE	26
<i>"GIRLS/WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AS A DRIVING FORCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"</i> HON. DR. SAWSAN MAJALI, MP JORDAN	26
<i>"HEALTH AS A PRINCIPAL DETERMINANT OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: HEALTHY YOUTH, SAFE LIFESTYLE AND RH"</i> ENG. MAYSON ZOUBI, PRESIDENT OF HIGHER POPULATION COUNCIL IN JORDAN	27
<i>DISCUSSION</i>	28

DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY 19 JULY 2017.....	29
<i>AL SALT DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SDC).....</i>	29
<i>THE HOLY LAND INSTITUTE FOR DEAF.....</i>	29
DAY THREE: THURSDAY 20 JULY 2017.....	30
<i>“INTRODUCTION ABOUT APDA” DR. OSAMU KUSUMOTO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY GENERAL OF APDA, JAPAN</i>	30
SESSION 4: IMPACT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. 31	
<i>“INVESTMENT IN ENVIRONMENT AND YOUTH POPULATION” DR. ATEF RWEDAN, MANAGER OF AL HUSSEIN YOUTH CITY.....</i>	31
<i>“CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS ON ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE: SHARING THE AFRICAN EXPERIENCE WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO MALAWI” HON. PAUL CHIBINGU, VICE CHAIR OF FPA, MP MALAWI.....</i>	32
<i>“ACTIONS FOR GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR” HON. DR. JETN SIRATHRANONT, MP THAILAND.....</i>	34
<i>DISCUSSION</i>	34
SESSION 5: PARLIAMENTARIANS’ ROLE ON THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.....	37
<i>DISCUSSION</i>	39
SESSION 6: THE ADOPTION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS STATEMENT	42
CLOSING CEREMONY	43
<i>ADDRESS HON. HUSAIN DALWAI, MP INDIA</i>	43
<i>ADDRESS DR. KHADIJA MOSLEH, IPPF MOROCCO</i>	43
<i>ADDRESS HON. HIROYUKI NAGAHAMA, VICE CHAIR OF JPFP, MP JAPAN</i>	44
<i>CLOSING ADDRESS HON. MARWAN AL-HMOUD, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF FAPPD, MP JORDAN</i>	45
ANNEXES	46
PROGRAMME.....	46
ASIAN AND ARAB PARLIAMENTARIANS MEETING AND STUDY VISIT ON.....	46
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT.....	46
PARTICIPANTS LIST.....	50
STATEMENT:	53

List of Acronyms:

APDA	Asian Population and Development Association
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAPPD	The Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development
FPA	Forum of African Parliamentarians on Population and Development
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICPPD	International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
IPPF	The International Planned Parenthood Federation
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JPFP	Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population
JTF	The Japan Trust Fund
MP	Member of Parliament
NC	National Committee on Population and Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PoA	Programme of Action
RH	Reproductive Health
SDC	Salt Development Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TAGG	Transparency, accountability and good governance
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNFPA	The United Nations Population Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

Foreword

This report documents the proceedings of the three-day parliamentarians project held in Amman and Al-Salt City, Jordan on 18-20 July 2017. The conference was organized by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and hosted by the Senate of Jordan and the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD) and supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the Japan Trust Fund (JTF).

This Project highlights and calls attention of Asian and Arab parliamentarians to population perspectives in the 2030 Agenda or Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), parliamentarians' roles and tasks in addressing population issues aligned with the new goals and targets, and related policies and programmes that advance social inclusion and population stability in the region.

It is expected that the project will enhance the capacity of parliamentarians who are responsible for population and development and establish a dialogue between Arab and Asian parliamentarians so as to exchange good practices, ideas and policy interventions. Such engagement strategies will help parliamentarians to strengthen global partnership on population and development and benefit from the project to the greatest extent possible.

The meeting and study visit brought together Members of Parliaments representing:

- Parliamentarians and representatives of NCs from 8 Arab region countries
- Parliamentarians and representatives of NCs from 6 Asian countries
- Parliamentarians representing African and European regions
- Japanese parliamentarians (JPFP members)
- Jordan parliamentarians
- UNFPA Representative Office
- Officers of the government, parliament, local NGOs
- IPPF and other development partners
- APDA and interpreters

During the sessions, presentations were made on:

1. The challenges of the region: young refugees, internally displaced persons and immigration
 - 1.1. Young refugees and displaced persons
 - 1.2. Environmental aspects of migration: water crisis and food security
 - 1.3. Promoting social stability and peaceful society
2. Demographic dividend and employment opportunity for youth
 - 2.1. Demographic Dividend and Population Issues
 - 2.2. Investment in youth: role of education on youth's decent employment opportunity
 - 2.3. Youth foundation
 - 2.4. Employment opportunities as a factor of sustainable development
3. Healthy society and gender equality: women empowerment, universal health coverage (UHC) and youth access to reproductive health (RH)
 - 3.1. Universal access to reproductive health and family planning
 - 3.2. Girls/Women Empowerment as a driving force for sustainable development
 - 3.3. Health as a principal determinant of the national development: UHC, healthy youth and safe lifestyle and RH

4. Impact of Economic Development and International Division of Labour for Young People
 - 4.1. Challenges and achievements on accountability, transparency and good governance: sharing the African experience
 - 4.2. Investment in environment and youth population
 - 4.3. Actions for global partnership and international division of labor
5. Parliamentarians' Role on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
 - 5.1. Regional and inter-regional cooperation

The delegates undertook study visits on Day II, to two (2) institutions: Salt Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Holy Land Institute for Deaf.

Delegates discussed and adopted a draft outcome document with focus on obstacles that parliamentarians face and concrete measure to develop and introduce legislation to improve population and development.

July 2017.

Executive Summary

Over the past decades, while the Arab region has shown remarkable socio-economic improvement including education and health, it has faced profound changes and challenges. Among them is the “youth bulge,” which describes the increasing proportion of youth in relative to other age groups. Such increase, together with overall Arab population pressures, has resulted in an unprecedented youth population growth in the region’s history .

One of the most challenging issues facing young Arabs is high unemployment rates. The region has one of the highest regional youth unemployment rate seen anywhere in the world. In 2009, more than 20% of the Arab youths were unable to find a job, which constituted more than half of the total unemployment. Such high youth unemployment, combined with a demographic youth bulge, provoked the Arab Spring, a civil uprising mainly by Arab youths, and regional instability.

Moreover, despite overall progress in the health sector in many Arab countries over the past years, Arab youth still suffer from inadequate health provision, poor access to health facilities, and lack of access to health information and services, especially for RH. This is especially true for young women, youth in rural areas, and youth with disabilities, and putting many in a vulnerable situation.

The roles of parliamentarians in enacting legislation to formulate policies and mobilize budget that takes population issues into account is a driver to promote socio-economic development. They have a significant part to play in linking demographic dimensions with sustainable development and turning them into advantages to produce socio-economic outcomes. For instance, the youth bulge presents not only development challenges but also opportunities, if appropriate policies are adopted to invest in the youth and reap the full potential of them.

It is against this backdrop that the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) conducted the “*Asian and Arab Parliamentarians Meeting and Study Visit on Population and Development - From Youth Bulge to Demographic Dividend: Toward Regional Development and Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*” on 18-20 July 2017 in Amman, Jordan. The conference brought together more than 80 participants representing Arab, Asian, African and European countries to enhance the capacity of parliamentarians who are responsible for population and development and establish a dialogue between Arab and Asian parliamentarians so as to exchange good practices, ideas and policy interventions.

The report of the “*Asian and Arab Parliamentarians Meeting and Study Visit on Population and Development - From Youth Bulge to Demographic Dividend: Toward Regional Development and Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*,” herein summarized the proceedings and highlights of the conference as well as the study visit within Jordan, as follow:

Key highlights of the remarks and key notes of the speeches were made during the opening ceremony to present main concepts and ideas for the meeting as a whole.

Session 1 on: *The Challenges of the Region: Young Refugees, Displaced Persons and Immigration*. This session focused on the recent challenges that region is facing, such as massive flow of refugees, migrants and immigrants from the region.

Session 2 on: *Demographic Dividend and Employment Opportunity for Youth*. This session focused on demographic dividend due to region’s educated and youthful population, the importance of employment opportunities of the youth population.

Session 3: *Healthy Society and Gender Equality: Women Empowerment, UHC and Youth Access to Reproductive Health (RH)*. This session focused on health as a fundamental factor in achieving sustainable development and women’s empowerment in building a sustainable society.

The highlights of the study visit.

Session 4: *Impact of Economic Development and International Division of Labour for Young People*. This session focused on accountability and transparency as a factor of good governance and promoting youth participation in social and economic activities.

Session 5: *Parliamentarians' Role on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. This session focused on parliamentarians' role in promoting transparency, accountability and good governance (TAGG), legislation and budgeting that may contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Session 6: *The Adaptation of Parliamentarians Statement*. This session objective was to discuss and adopt a draft outcome document with focus on obstacles that parliamentarians face and concrete measure to develop and introduce legislation to improve population and development.

During the closing ceremony, a Member of Parliament from India wrapped up the 3-day project; a representative of IPPF emphasized the collaboration between parliamentarians and IPPF; Vice Chair of JPFP, on behalf of the organizer, expressed his deep gratitude to the participants; and a Member of Parliament representing FAPPD called for further cooperation between Asian and Arab parliamentarians and closed the meeting.

The adopted statement, as an outcome of the Project, recommend that delegates who participated in this meeting and study visit play the championing role in urging their respective Parliaments and Governments to mainstream the relevant SDGs in all their national policies programmes and legislation that impact population and development issues. It also recommends that joint meetings of Parliamentarians, organized by APDA and supported by UNFPA and JTF should be convened regularly at the sub-regional and regional levels to assess and/or monitor and evaluate the implementation progress of the APDA Conference resolutions and recommendations.

In conclusion, this project offered parliamentarians representing countries from Arab, Asian, African and European countries an invaluable opportunity to share and discuss pertinent issues regarding population and development.

Day One: Tuesday 18 July 2017

Venue: The Jordanian Senate Hall, the Senate Building of Jordan

Opening Ceremony

Address of Organizer

Hon. Ichiro Aisawa, Acting Chair of JPFP; Director of APDA, Japan

We are very grateful for your participation in this important conference, Asian and Arab Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development - From Youth Bulge to Demographic Dividend: Toward Regional Development and Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, which has been jointly organized by JPFP-APDA and the Senate of Jordan.

It is truly an honour and pleasure for me to address you on behalf of the conference organizers, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP).

This conference is the first we hold in the Arab region and as such it has an epoch making importance. The purport and objectives of the conference will be covered in the Keynote Address, I will therefore simply describe how we have all been able to come here together.

APDA, the organizer of this conference, was established in 1982 as the foundation with research capability, for the establishment of the world's first regional parliamentarians' forum on population and development, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) as well as to serve as the Secretariat of the non-partisan Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP).

Since then, it has supported AFPPD and JPFP activities over a long period. In fact, from the outset, AFPPD's scope was in accordance with the definition of Asia adopted by the UN Security Council, which meant all regions east of Cyprus. Consequently, AFPPD's activities have more or less covered all the areas that all of you come from.

In 1994, when the UN sponsored International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was to take place in Cairo, Egypt, it was decided to organize on the eve of the ICPD an International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) in order to encourage parliamentarians to contribute to the cause based on the region's needs,. The Honorable Shin Sakurai, the Chairperson of the AFPPD and Executive Director of JPFP at the time and serving as the chairman of the Steering Committee of ICPPD, took the initiative to establish Africa and Middle East Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AMECPPD), contributing to the success of ICPPD.

Following the establishment of AMECPPD, the area covered by AFPPD was changed to apply the definition of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) rather than that of the UN Security Council.

Later, in 1997, AMECPPD organized in Cape Town, South Africa, an inaugural General Assembly of the Forum of Africa and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD), and dissolved itself, electing Hon. Samir Habashna, a Jordanian MP, as its Secretary General. Since then, I learned that following the development of FAAPPD that FPA was established as the regional parliamentarians group in the African region, while FAPPD was established for the Arab Region.

Although this Conference is the first one convened by APDA in the Arab region, as I explained earlier, APDA and JPFP have been involved with your region from the early days. This time, for us to organize

a joint conference comprising the Asian and Arab regions is, we could say, like a get-together among old friends.

The theme of this conference is all about enlisting young people for the development of the region. When Asia was defined as the area east of Cyprus, we used to say that the three major world religions were all born in Asia. The Arab and Middle East region gave birth to two of them. Historically, this is a region that has contributed richly to humankind's cultural heritage. Indeed, many of ancient Greece's academic fruits reached Europe via this region, passing on the wisdom of humankind.

We can truly say that in this region are the roots of humankind's oldest and most profound cultures. At times, this has caused struggles between values that resulted in numerous tragedies.

When our predecessors established the Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development in Asia, how best to address issues of population posed major challenges since there are many different values. That understanding led us parliamentarians to provide our wisdom.

As parliamentarians, we are engaged in national politics as representatives of our constituents and electoral districts, and at times even of religion and culture. In that sense, I believe we all recognize those values as we engage ourselves in day-to-day politics.

As politicians, we all have another face. That is, even as we represent diverse values and faiths, we are all committed to seeking the welfare of the people we represent. I believe that there is no one among us parliamentarians who does not love the members of our electoral districts or our country.

One of our major challenges, it follows, is how we can improve the well-being of them all. How did our predecessors respond to this challenge when they began the activity in 1982, some thirty-five years ago? Back then without getting into discussion over values, they arrived at a common understanding that the only way to improve the welfare of their people by tackling the issues of population and development was to take a hard look at the facts and clarify the responses required based on scientific knowledge.

Our activities began with parliamentarians who endorsed the idea, that is, as representatives of people who wished for happiness, and were willing to work to make that a reality, convinced that it was much more important to improve social conditions than to engage in discussion over creeds and values.

There is no question that our religion and faith are important. But we are challenged as human beings to exert our best efforts to build sustainable societies by resolving the problems at hand based as much as possible on rational scientific knowledge. This conviction led to the establishment of APDA as a foundation capable of research in the field of population and development, and as a platform for parliamentarian activities.

Let us all work together, faithful to our commitment to bring happiness to our peoples by returning to our original principles, transcending our 'isms' and creeds, countries and regions, to realize sustainable development for the good of all.

JFPF and APDA are truly privileged to be able have this conference and the study tour here in Jordan. I would like to thank the Senate of Jordan and FAPPD Secretariat from the bottom of my heart for their great contributions to carrying out these events.

I will conclude my address by sincerely praying that this conference will further promote initiatives towards new partnerships and sustainable development.

Thank you.

Address of Host Organization

Hon. Marwan Al-Hmoud, Senator Jordan, Secretary General of FAPPD

In his speech, Hon Marwan Al-Hmoud, Secretary-General of FAPPD, thanked and welcomed the participants for their contribution in this conference that is looking for a regional sustainable development.

Hon. Al Hmoud indicated that the region is going through a developmental stage, in which the population issues occupy the importance of the decision-makers, and there is a concern on the linkage between the issues of development, population and youth.

Hon. Al-Hmoud said that the FAPPD includes representatives from the legislative councils of 18 countries and the forum held different meeting on populations in Cairo, Rabat and Amman. The forum is looking forward to making more progress in population and development issues at the Arab Regional level. Especially in Jordan, the King gives a great attention to this issue and looking to solutions for the challenge on population inflation, which negatively affects sustainable development.

Hon. Al-Hmoud assured that the issue of population and development is now recognized by all official and national parties, because of its importance in forming the future political, economic and cultural aspects for societies and realizing the welfare of future generations. Hon. Al-Hmoud closed his speech by wishing the success of the conference and thanking all the parties that made this conference held.

Address

Dr. Luay Shabaneh, UNFPA Director for the Arab Region

Dr. Shabaneh started his speech by welcoming the participants and thanking the organizers for the invitation to participate in this important conference. He mentioned that he is satisfied for the current level of parliamentarians' engagement in the work on the social agenda, adding that the ignorance of social agenda was the reason of all the problems lately. Dr. Shabaneh said that historically countries used to focus on the political agenda and ignorance of the social one, but he is happy now that the focus social agenda now is back as the lifeline of many problems.

Dr. Shabaneh stated that recently there is an attention to human rights approach as a good indicator to the realization of our people rights, assuring that all people have the same rights, but the state mechanisms of cooperation and response to these rights are different from one country to another.

Dr. Shabaneh also mentioned that the Arab region is passing an important demographic phase, clarifying that around 30% of the population in the Arab region is between the age of 10–24 years old, and this is considered a huge challenge but can be considered as an opportunity if we best use the social policies, which can promote the production of the demographic work towards economic welfare, or what is called by demographic dividend.

In addition to that, he said the region is facing some humanity issues that affect people. Therefore, this conference and its discussions are important to exchange information and experiences and learn from others experiences in Asia, who faced similar issues but benefited positively from the demographic dividend.

UNFPA is committed to the outcomes of ICPD and the follow-up that was done and was issued as Cairo deceleration, which includes a set of directions, making population the center of development. He shared the analysis of the results of 1990–2015 for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The economic growth was not reflected on the social returns which led to increase in poverty and inequality. He asserted that the concept of population-centered agenda is the solution for poverty and inequality.

Dr. Shabaneh added that the role of parliamentarians in development can be achieved by: 1) Supporting public policies and legislation and ensuring the provision of budget to the social agenda,

2) Perform oversight role to make sure that the legislation is in line with the international covenants and 3) Promoting the population-centered agenda through the channels of communication between parliamentarians and their constituencies.

Finally, Dr. Shabaneh stressed that UNFPA's commitment to support the role of parliamentarians in their efforts for development, thanking the Japanese government for continuous support to this conference, looking forward for more exchange and best practices, to achieve people welfare.

Address

Mr. Tarik Ghedira, Chair of IPPF Arab World Regional Executive Committee

Mr. Ghedira started his speech with thanking the parliamentarians who travelled all the way long to participate in the conference, so as to share equally the responsibility of sustainable development, as well as thanking the Government of Japan and other stakeholders for the continuous support for the developmental work in all areas.

In his speech, Mr. Ghedira highlighted the achievements of IPPF over the past years especially with women, rural areas, poor and youth, such as delivering sexual and reproductive health services and contribution in a number of policy and legal changes in support or defense of sexual and reproductive health and rights at the national, regional and global levels. He commented that the finger of blame is always pointed at women although they suffer from violence, sexual circumcision and inequality and many other issues.

Mr. Ghadira pointed out that population and reproductive health is the main axis for sustainable development. The governments alone cannot make progress on the development issues but need to cooperate with the private sector and other stakeholders such as CSOs. This is extremely important for enhancing the reproductive health and curbing the gap between rich and poor people.

He closed his speech by looking forward to strengthening relationship with parliamentarians to ensure achieving the sustainable development desired. He added that the health situation is effected by poverty and inequality; therefore, the gap must be bridged between poor and rich to reach sustainable development and better people's health, the Japanese experience in working on health between the private and public sectors succeeded in its sustainable development.

Opening Statement

H.E. Dr. Marouf Bakhit, Acting Speaker of the Jordanian Senate

H.E. Dr. Marouf Bakhit welcomed all the participants who are working cooperatively on this important topic to assure development and welfare to our people, and thanked the Government of Japan and the organizing parties for this meeting. H.E. Dr. Bakhit pointed out that the legislative authority in Jordan pays attention to the issues of development, youth, women, education, environment and housing.

He stressed on the importance of providing indicators and figures to achieve progress and sustainable development for parliamentarians, adding that the health, education and housing committees in the Parliament achieved a lot for population and development issues and developed long-terms plans for sustainable development. He then requested all concerned parties to provide parliamentarians with all the statistics and indicators that facilitate their work and make it achievable, especially with the struggles that countries face in the Arab region.

H.E. Dr. Bakhit closed by thanking all the participants and organizers and wishing the successful meeting ahead.

Keynote Address: “Population, Regional Stability and Sustainable Development”
Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko, Vice Chair of JPFP; Member of the Board of Directors of APDA, MP Japan

1. Engagement between the Arab world and Asia

I would like to sincerely thank you for participating in this *Asian and Arab Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development - From Youth Bulge to Demographic Dividend: Toward Regional Development and Achievement of the SDGs*, which is co-hosted by JPFP-APDA and the Parliament of Jordan.

As you know, this region is the birthplace of two of the world’s three major religions. In the history of human beings, this region has nurtured a remarkable spiritual culture that can be described as the essence of civilization. Because of this high level of civilization and as a cradle of religion, beliefs and values have always been important issues in this region. Balancing political differences arising from religion and values was likewise an issue that our predecessors had to contend with when they embarked on addressing the issue of population and development 35 years ago.

When it was decided that this meeting will be held in the Arab world, it brought me back to the fundamental principles on which our regional activities were founded, and I was convinced that we parliamentarians have a role to play in promoting development and achieving the SDGs in this region.

Today, the Arab world is in the midst of a demographic transition, moving from high birth and death rates, then to high birth rate and lower death rate, and finally to lower birth and death rates. As a result, from the perspective of the population structure, the youth population is rapidly increasing.

In general, an increase in youth population is a major driver of national development. It is, however, conditional on certain factors. To put it simply, an increase in youth population becomes a driver of development only when there is demand for youth labor in the local industrial structure and youth labor is integrated into the country’s economic system.

In the case of Japan after its defeat in the Second World War, many Japanese nationals were demobilized and returned to their country. It was the rural agricultural communities that took them in. Japan is located in the rice-growing area in monsoon Asia. In this environment, it is possible to feed a large number of people if they are willing to work on rice farms as labor.

Later, the Korean War and Vietnam War necessitated Japan to become the world’s manufacturing base. The labor that was needed to meet this new demand was supplied from the rural agricultural communities after the war. This labor then became a driving force for national development within the industrial structure that was heavily labor-intensive at that time.

Moreover, the introduction of the universal health coverage (UHC) worked well as a mechanism for income redistribution. As a result, Japan succeeded in building a large middle class, attained economic development over a relatively long period, and joined the ranks of the world’s advanced economies.

Today, the unexpectedly rapid decline in fertility in Japan, coupled with increasing longevity, is creating institutional fatigue on the UHC system. This is the most important domestic policy issue in Japan today. Nevertheless, it is true that Japan’s past policies represent one of the most outstanding, successful cases in the world in respect to the process of national development.

Presumably the biggest problem in the Arab region is that the young population is not being integrated into the economic system, which causes poverty and disparities among them, and that they are at times becoming a factor of social instability.

2. Situation in the Arab world

In terms of the environment, the Fertile Crescent produces abundant wheat, but it can only provide prosperity when the population is small. It cannot provide the same level of productivity per acre as in the monsoon region. In terms of ecology, as most of the Arab world lies in the arid and semi-arid climate, the carrying capacity of this region is not very high.

When the population is small, people can experience the richness and fertility of this region. But as population increases, the region becomes highly vulnerable to climate change. Behind the problem in Syria, the drought that hit this region forced many people to go without food, and these desperate people who have nothing to lose or angry with that injustice are reportedly joining various radical groups. If we take a step back, we can easily understand that to deal with such problems as caused by climate change, it is more important to deal with the problems than to engage in struggles over differences in values and beliefs.

Specifically, it is fundamental to addressing population issues by preventing unwanted pregnancies in ways that are religiously and culturally acceptable to people. It also means making rational efforts to overcome vulnerability to climate change by introducing agricultural technology and investing in water-conserving irrigation systems such as drip irrigation, and at the same time, educating regional communities. Even though strengthening the foundation for regional stability through concrete steps should be the priority in this region, such efforts are sadly being trampled by conflicts before their benefits can be reaped.

There are many other issues. Many countries in this region are oil and gas-producing countries that have amassed wealth by exporting energy resources. This raises the value of their currencies, which is advantageous for buying commodities but disadvantageous for manufacturing and exporting their products. Stronger currency also means that wages for young labor force are higher than the international standard, an impediment to formation of labor-intensive industries.

As you are aware, even though many oil and gas producing countries have a sizable youth population, those countries depend on foreign labor to carry out demanding and unfavorable work. I wonder if such a model is sustainable.

An economist once said that oil is an asset and not an economy. What this means is that sole dependence on oil for prosperity will never bring about true economic development. Young workers will not be integrated into the economic system, and there will be no endogenous growth from within the country. An asset means that it can be used and be depleted. All that remains after it is depleted is a growing population that has become used to life of prosperity.

The development of the Internet has enabled young people to look into the lives of people living in advanced countries in the West. They can also see the high standard of living enjoyed by people in their own countries who have become rich through natural energy exports. This dissemination of information may spread a wrong kind of illusion in the youth population, who may miss the point of the need to strive and work hard towards their goals. When things are not going well, they may ask why they have to work so hard but they cannot live like the wealthy, feeling a growing sense of inequality.

3. Towards finding the solution

The solution to these problems is actually clear-cut. It is neither based on an illusion nor easy to achieve. The solution is to prepare the basic conditions for development based on the knowledge and understanding of social sciences. I believe that in today's sessions, many experts in their respective specializations will identify what those basic conditions are.

For example, unless we prevent unwanted pregnancies, we cannot nurture the next generation of healthy children. Unless we stop conflicts and create an attractive investment environment, there

will be no foreign investment into the region. Unless there are employment opportunities, we cannot give full-time jobs to young people.

If the strong currency is an obstacle to the formation of labor-intensive industries that are dependent on low-wage labor, we need to improve education in order to develop knowledge-intensive industries. None of these challenges are easily surmountable.

As contemporaries to such an era as this and as representatives of our people, we can properly understand the mechanism of development and, without resorting to conflicts or wars but by using the power of reason, pave the way for sustainable development. It is about our duty as politicians and responsibility as humans to prepare the basic conditions for people's welfare and happiness in our societies.

In order to sever the unfortunate chain of circumstances in the interest of the happiness and welfare of the people, to give hope to the children, and to realize future peace and development, the only way for us as representatives of our people is to make known to our colleagues our understanding of the situation based on facts and to gain support from our peoples.

Our work on the population issues builds on this foundation. I sincerely hope that through this meeting, we will identify the conditions and prompt positive action for sustainable development in the respective regions.

Thank you very much.

Keynote Address:

Hon. Samir Habashneh, former Secretary-General of FAAPPD, former Interior Minister, Jordan

I thank each of the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD) for inviting me to participate in this important meeting in order to achieve the supreme aims of this forum. Also I welcome both of the Asian and Arab parliamentarians.

The importance of this conference is represented through combining development and population, which means that human being is the outcome of this forum procedures. According to me, we did not reach, as Arabs, to find out any coherence or link between development formula and human as the means and final purpose of development.

The Cairo conference held in 1994 was considered as an early precaution for us as Arabs in particular and for people in developing countries (third world) in general. We, since the end of the stage of national independences of various Arab states up to the conference of 1994, could not achieve economic development in its real meaning; in other words, we could not settle the concepts of development even they were settled in some sides, but they were not translated to social derivation. And in spite of that, our states did not reach the levels of the desired development.

Despite the increase of the national production with the percentage of 5-6%, we did not investigate where this increase has gone. As a result, the Arab production in general, with some exceptions, was inconsiderable. This led to the collapse of education and health levels, the appearance of more unemployment and widening of poverty area all over the Arab World; that caused our underdevelopment from what we were before the stage of independences and from the world who seeks to overcome the reasons causing starving, poverty and devastation.

For example, the Japanese and German experiences are considered as superior evidences; that is, both of Japan and Germany suffered from devastation after World War II, but where were they in 1994? And where were the Arab states? We attempted to achieve such success after the independence, utilizing the 1994 ICPD as a momentum. Although Arab states tried to advance development and welfare by way of moral and tangible means which Arab citizens sought after, we failed in all of that, even the rich states.

As I think, the conference of 1994 was an early precaution for us to move towards these issues, but we did not deal with them as required and the Arab situation continued to be regressed until the citizen expressed his anger and depression through what we called "Arab Spring Pains" in 2010-2011.

Hon. Aisawa mentioned that "this land is considered as the cradle of civilizations and beliefs" — that is right. The economic and social failure led to the depression of Arab citizen. We have lost tolerance, and we became sectarians and ideologists. Yesterday I was with a Lebanese representative. We wondered about the ability of proposing a Christian Prime Minister such as Fares Khorri in the Arab World in such this stage. We wish if the matter is only Christian and Muslim, but the great calamity will occur if we divide ourselves ideologically and enter a new war which emerges on the level of Sunnah and Shiah in many Arab regions. I think unless we promote development and link it with human in the Arab region, then we will face more failure and underdevelopment.

What I want to say about this forum, which I am very proud to be one of the contributors in its establishment, is that after the Cairo Conference, a new trend to find a role for parliamentarians in the domain of development and population has emerged. A steering committee was established in Cairo Conference and included Arab and African parliamentarians, and it was of my honor to participate in its agenda and in its various meetings since 1994 up to the announcement of this forum. The research lasted for three years to find out the structure of this forum, the frames related to its objectives, the common means to fulfill these objectives, and the executive frame of this forum

which has been launched from Cape Town as mentioned, and where the Forum of Africa and Arab Parliamentarians has been announced.

I would like to indicate to the great role and the impartial assistance provided by both of the Japanese Government and Parliaments through joining all the meetings of the steering committee and their contribution to the development and population fund. Parliamentarians have a great role to push the governments toward real and serious development.

It is not allowable, after this long time of their independence, to have millions of Arabs who suffer of poverty, unemployment and depression. When we talk about youth unemployment in the Arab World with the percentage of 30-40%, we should expect youth trend towards drugs, terrorism, extremism, fleeing from their inherited values and orienting towards strange foreign values such as rejecting the other, tolerance discarding, murdering and terrorism.

Fundamentally, Islamic religion is based on the acceptance of the other. For instance, when Omar bin Al-Khattab (the second caliph and a senior companion of the Prophet Muhammed) came to Jerusalem, he stood side by side with the Bishop of the Orthodox Church (Safranous), and this was a real recognition of the other. Also when prophet Muhammed (pbuh) put The Madinah Sheet, he addressed the people by saying: "**O People", he did not say "**O Muslims" or "**O Arabs". That is what the Madinah has included, in addition to Muslims, disbelievers, Jewish, and Christians. So, The Madinah Sheet was the first document for the civil state.

I appreciate the great effort that H.E Marwan Al-Hmoud and his parliamentarian colleagues do to preserve an Arab entity, which concerns about human beings in a time they became cheap. I greet these efforts and I wish you good luck. I repeatedly thank each of APDA and JPFP in Japan and the Japanese Government for their continuous support to the forum and its great goals.

Thank you very much

Session 1: The Challenges of the Region: Young Refugees, Displaced Persons and Immigration

Session Chair: Hon. Dr. Ibrahim Bani Hani, MP Jordan

“Young Refugees and Displaced Persons” Hon. Abdelmadjid Tagguiche, MP Algeria

Hon. Tagguiche started his speech with welcoming and thanking all the participants and he expressed his honor to be part of this conference that will raise and discuss important topics, which affect the life of people.

The presenter said that the topics of this conference might appear as unrelated, but when combined they formulate the human essence and lead to sustainable development. The presenter added that the refugees are people who faced persecution and are forced to leave their countries. The total number till the end of 2015 amounted to 21,300,000. In addition to that, the refugee concept witnessed many changes throughout the history. The definition of the refugee has insufficiency, so it is the duty to define a comprehensive definition that takes into consideration all the aspects of asylum. The problem of asylum is one of the problems that plague the humanitarian situation, especially in light of the international community's failure to deal with this issue.

Hon. Tagguich continued that according to Geneva Convention, a refugee is a person who has fled their own country because they are at risk of serious human rights violations. Because their own government cannot or will not protect them, they are forced to seek international protection. He stated that the definition of refugees was expanded to include other categories, such as the climate emigration that happens due to climate change.

Hon. Tagguiche talked about the Algerian experience, saying that Algeria played an important role in enhancing the humanitarian and international law, but we need to adopt collective solutions based on economic and social factors. He also pointed out that Algeria receives tens of thousands of African refugees on their land as well as displaced people despite economic and security challenges; therefore, the country played an important role to work on sustainable development in Africa by solving the issues of asylum and refugees.

The youth refugee is now considered as the main problem in the Arab, African and Asian region, because of the wars, the climate changes, fragility of the economy and absence of security because of the terrorism. He mentioned that we all have to cooperate to solve those issues. He reported that Algeria is working on developing a comprehensive integrated plan, as well as a piece of legislation working on enhancing social and economic situation, and organizing issues related to refugees and displaced people.

He clarified that we must pay a special attention to young refugees and displaced people, as in Jordan and Lebanon. Future strategies can be launched, developing youth refugees database and fighting unemployment can help solve refugee youth problem. Helping youth refugees in health, hygiene and education for their integration into the community, and social protection is very important.

Hon. Tagguiche closed by saying that above recommendations and others must be followed and taken into consideration to solve the challenges of youth refugees and displaced people. He added that international coordination remains necessary through the implementation of the provisions of international treaties.

“Environmental Aspects of Emigration, Water Crises and Food Insecurity”
Hon. Dr. Abdelhady El Kasbey, MP Egypt

Hon. Kasabi started his presentation with thanking all the stakeholders in the conference and presented a paper on the environmental dimensions for displacement, water security and the impact on the human in general and the Middle East in particular.

Hon. Kasbey said that the global warming will affect the fertility of soil, which will lead to a huge decrease of food security, and therefore it will affect increasing in displacement. He explained that two-thirds of people are living in areas of scarcity of water, which will lead to many social, economic and political problems. He stated that according to the researches and statistics, MENA Region (Middle East and North Africa) constitutes about 6% of the total world population, with only about 2% of water resources in the world. The average of per capita in the MENA region is 1000 cubic meters, comparing to 7000 cubic meters in other regions, and scientists expect that by 2050, this number will decrease by 50%.

He added that according to FAO, by 2015, 80 million persons were suffering from food insecurity in the world, by 2016, the number increased to 108 million persons, with an increased percentage of 25.9%. In addition, according to FAO, 805 million persons are suffering from malnutrition in the world. Then the presenter talked about the human security as a noble destination and human security that includes: water security, food security, environmental security, economical security and political security, assuring that the lack of security leads to increase in crimes and violation of human rights. The presenter said that the scarcity of water and food will result in different problems, and this will cause displacement and refugees. According to researches, 260 million people will be climate refugees by 2020, and many economic problems will rise. By 2030, a deficit of 40% will occur between the resources we have and the demand expected.

As for the food security, the main two topics to talk about are: the quantity and the quality of food needed and the means of getting food either internally or by importation. He stated that the food security can be defined by the ability of the society to provide food needs to its people to live healthy and that the agriculture needs water as well for production of food.

At the end of the presentation, Hon. Kasbey presented the recommendations as follow:

- Governments, donors and international organizations preplan its development plans and cities to be compatible with climate changes;
- Handling the refugees' issues on regional level;
- Dam construction to use the water from floods;
- Sewage treatment;
- MENA region must decrease greenhouse gas emissions and use clean energy resources;
- Use of Renewable energy;
- Application of environmentally-conscious agricultural practices;
- Expanding in forests which help in Carbon absorption;

At the end, Hon. Kasbey stressed that everyone has to be aware of water and food insecurity and hunger, assuring that people have to work their best to face those dangers.

“Promoting Social Stability and Peaceful Society”

Hon. Dr. Reda Khawaldeh, MP Jordan

Hon. Dr. Khawaldeh started by thanking all the stakeholders for organizing this important conference. As for the social security or social stability, it can be defined as a sense of reassurance, stability, the supremacy of social values, and the provision of human needs in all aspects of life. He mentioned that the political stability and the political rights of people will lead to social security. In addition, what threatened social security the most is the conflicts, especially the conflict of the minor identities with the national identity.

Hon. Dr. Khawaldeh stated that mostly the root of any issues threatening social security is political. If you go back to the roots of the social security problems, it will be political conflicts. The presenter then moved into speaking about the role of the CSOs in promoting social security by working cooperatively to solve the problems. Thus he added that there are different strategies that should be put to work in order to assure social security, such as good governance, justice and freedom of speech and combating corruption.

Hon. Dr. Khawaldeh said that the lasting peace is important for the social security; if societies are not peaceful there will be violence. He emphasized that we can achieve a certain level of peacefulness where violence is absent.

In addition to that, he said that other factors to achieve peaceful society are pluralism, such as religious, social, cultural and the political pluralism. He stressed that law and sovereignty is a must to ensure peaceful society. Hon. Dr. Khawaldeh recommended enhancing the political participation and respecting each other. He also suggested establishing a social security center in each country.

Hon. Dr. Khawaldeh said that in a civil country, pluralism will influence positively the country. In order to achieve social security, people's rights and freedom must be protected, assuring that only the rule of law can lead to the achievement of social security and stability.

The presenter said that in order to reach social security, each person must have his/her rights and freedom. Going to the recommendations, the presenter said that the whole society must work on raising their children on love, respect and fight against violence. And as parliamentarians and defenders of human rights, we must stand for anyone trying to tamper the rights of the humans. He maintained that the media have a role to play in promoting political participation and achieving the spirit of belonging and identity for youth, through awareness sessions in the society.

At the end, the presenter said as an intervention of the previous session that global warming comes as a result of the developed countries, not the developing countries, and thus the developed countries should hold their responsibility as well.

Discussion

- Intervention: In response to the suggestion about establishing social security centers in each country to fight against radicalism, in which Dr. Kasbey said; if all the money spent on wars was directed to health, education and fight against poverty and ignorance, we would be in a better situation.
- Hon. Dr. Ibrahim Bani Hani, MP Jordan: Arab spring caused a lot of problems in the Arab region. Poverty and ignorance and lack of services can lead to radicalism and terrorism.
- Dr. Musa Braizat, the Secretary General for the Jordanian National Human Rights Center: The political structure is behind the problem of not achieving social security, especially in the Arab region, and democratic political structure which promotes the protection of human rights and freedom is the solution.

- Eng. Mayson Zoubi, President of Higher Population Council, Jordan: There should be joint efforts at the regional level to solve water scarcity, especially in Jordan. For parliamentarians, I would like to stress that we should work together at the regional level to work on water security and learn from other experiences such as in Uganda.
- Hon. Dr. Sahar Qawasmi, MP Palestine: As for the civil peace, the world is changing dynamics but not having the effective mechanism in the Arab region. This is the reason of having radicalism in this region.
- Hon. Mohammad Al Touil, MP Morocco: I would like to thank the presenters on the topics raised. I would like to say that the failure of achieving the modern civil state caused the failure in development, which led to the radicalism.

Session 2: Demographic Dividend and Employment Opportunity for Youth

Session Chair: Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva, MP Kyrgyzstan

“Demographic Dividend and Population Issues”

Hon. Jumaa Kaabi, MP Bahrain

Hon. Kaabi started his speech by saying that providing youth with job opportunities is very important, since it is connected to the danger of free time. Unemployment is a fertile environment to radicalism and other economic, social and political dangers. He mentioned that when developing work plans and researches about the creation of job opportunities and facing unemployment, it is important to take into consideration a number of variables such as population growth and progress and development of many aspects, including cultural, social, health and educational.

He stressed that the increasing number of youth and graduates requires creating job opportunities corresponding to their qualifications and skills, and contributes to sustainable development. Especially the Arab region has a majority of youth in its population, and the challenges they face must be dealt with seriously.

He highlighted the fact that Bahrain considers youth as main priority and promotes their participation in all life aspects, building their capacity and skills to suit the job opportunities. And in order to achieve that, the Law 57 was published in 2006 to establish the Labor Fund to support the national economic development, build the capacity of Bahrainis' labor for their productivity and ability to compete, and to create better and suitable job opportunities for youth.

He explained that in Bahrain they support youth initiatives and promote their creativity and entrepreneurship to create new opportunities. In addition to that, the Ministry of Labor and Social Development conducted many job exhibitions. He added that the legislative authority contributed to supporting the creation of job opportunities for youth and protecting their rights, through legislation. Such legislation includes the Law 48 that was issued in 2010 about civic service and the law 36 issued in 2012 about the labor in the national sector. He assured that all the stakeholders in the state must cooperate and work together on creating job opportunities, especially between the public and private sector, noting that the unemployment proportion in Bahrain is less than 3%.

“Investment in Youth: Role of Education on Youth’s Decent Employment Opportunity”

Hon. Tomasito Villarin, MP Philippines

After thanking the organizer, Hon. Tomasito started his presentation by pointing that while two out of five young people of working age are unemployed or have work but wages are below poverty levels. The youth employment challenges are represented by quantity and quality of jobs, irrelevance of jobs, access and justice issues, reproductive health, and providing adequate legal protection. All across the developing countries, low household incomes and limited access to education drive youth to informal work at early ages.

He also stated that in the context of food security, demographic changes and globalization, rural development and youth employment are at the center of the agenda in the recently concluded G-20 Summit in Germany, assuring that the future of youth in rural area is very important to us all.

Hon. Tomasito mentioned that in 2016 in order to enhance coordination and collaboration among all stakeholders, the United Nations Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth was launched. Among its guiding principles is to expand investment in youth for quality education and skills development, which will strengthen connections between education and skills development systems and labor markets.

He stressed that in relation to the 8th Goal of the SDGs, the global target is to achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labor-intensive sectors. This can be done by the countries through encouraging productivity, creativity, innovation, decent opportunities, entrepreneurship and the micro- and medium-projects, including access to financial services.

Hon. Tomasito mentioned that the greater challenge for youth is that they are not the one consulted and their voices are not heard. He said that he would like to share the experience of one local initiative in Philippine about youth empowerment and their right to live the life they want to and to live in a world we all share. Hon. Tomasito added that it is not a process or an outcome, but instead youth empowerment comes from the individual attitudes and abilities, shared culture and everyday structures that the youth share with adults in our society.

He also spoke about the creative talents. The driver of education today is the so-called global war for talent wherein high skilled labor is outsourced from all over the globe. But talent is not just working to be employed, but for one to express creatively his/her being.

Another important aspect is bridging difference, such as the youth engagement in diversity and gender equality to accept each other. Other issue is digital age. The digital skills are considered in high demand and valuable in Philippine and other countries, and make youth more competitive for many positions and work fields.

Lastly, Hon. Tomasito pointed about social entrepreneurship, which aims to inspire young people to become effective and ethical leaders and equip them with skills to help them address problems and empower them to be the change-makers themselves. The youth energy and enthusiasm is creating long-term, deep impact that is transforming their own lives, and the world around them.

“Practice of Azerbaijan on Youth Policy”

Hon. Shahin Ismayilov, MP Azerbaijan

Hon. Ismayilov thanked all the colleagues and presented an overview on Azerbaijan Youth Foundation, which is one of the foundations working on youth issues in Azerbaijan. Youth foundation was established in December 2011 with four categories:

- A. Local project implemented by youth organization in Azerbaijan;
- B. International project implemented by youth organization from Azerbaijan or abroad;
- C. Individual projects and initiatives of young people; and
- D. Travel grants for young people.

He presented the number of registrations in the foundation of more than 7,000: 326 registered organization and 7,154 registered individuals.

Hon. Ismayilov presented some projects of youth organizations and individuals supported by Youth Foundation such as leadership management, intellectual games, family and children, sports, culture, healthy lifestyle and others.

The presenter pointed out that the geographical distribution of the big grants is assured by the foundation, not to be on the capital only. He added that the foundation has many publications, which reach up to one million, such as booklets, brochures, books, calendars, e-books and others. As for the internet publications and services, the number is approximately 100, and around 4,000 youth get salaries from the projects of the foundation. The presenter showed the statistics about the numbers and budgets of the projects implemented.

At the end, Hon. Ismayilov recommended creating an Asian youth foundation, assuring that it will be a good practice and excellent work to create youth job opportunities.

“Employment Opportunities as a Factor of Sustainable Development”

Mr. Haitham Khasawneh, Secretary General, Ministry of Labor, Jordan

Mr. Khasawneh expressed his gratitude to all the stakeholders in the conference and stated that if any economy is able to create job opportunities, then countries have less unemployment rates, which will affect other things such as poverty.

As for the labor sector in Jordan, the country has moved recently from “direct employment” to “development and employment”. A direct employment is finding a job opportunity to unemployed person, but development and employment is to create other opportunities to other unemployed people by encouraging youth to create their own business by funding those initiatives.

As for the demographic data of Jordan, the population is comprised of 53% males and 47% females. As for nationality 69% of the population is Jordanian and 31% from other nationalities. In addition, the higher percentage of population is youth from 15–29 years old, which accounts for the third of Jordanian population. As for the unemployment figures of 2016, the total percentage was 15.9%, and it increased by 13.6% during the last five years. One of the reasons is the increasing Syrian refugees, and jobs are not being created at the same time because of the low economic growth.

The population of Jordan is around 9.5 million by 2015, 6.6 million are Jordanians, considering that 6 million are within the working age but the active ones are 50% of them. As for gender equality in work, the distribution of jobs between males and females is 84% and 16% respectively. This indicates an inequality of job distribution between men and women, adding that 71% of males and 29% of females are unemployed, while about 50% of the total unemployed people are graduated from high schools.

Mr. Khasawneh presented the statistics of the employment by sector and work fields and pointed out the fact that the economic growth is not high and job opportunities are still low. The state must work on having higher economic growth, in order to create more jobs opportunities and involve more women's participation in the economic growth of Jordan.

In conclusion Mr. Khasawneh stressed that it is important to motivate youth to work according to the work market demands, encouraging investment and legalization as well as organizing the labor market.

Discussion

- **Hon. Dr. Sahar Qawasmi**, MP Palestine: What is the percentage of jobs in the production sector?
- **Mr. Haitham Khasawneh**: Unfortunately there is no high economic growth, and therefore job creation is low. And the problem in Jordan is that we have a high number of immigrants' workers. We need to encourage Jordanians to go into the agriculture and construction sectors to fulfill the positions taken by immigrants. As for the industrial production sector, we need to attract more investment.
- **Khadija Mosleh**, IPPF Morocco: An investment in youth and education is important, but we should tackle the issue of youth bulge. Countries need to raise youth awareness of sexual reproductive health and parliamentarians must promote those issues and raise awareness about it.
- **Hon. Hamood Al Yahyaai**, MP Oman: What are the Philippine actions for youth empowerment?
- **Hon. Tomasito Villarin**, MP Philippines: In the Philippines there is a youth national commission and it is the primary agency for the young generation that undertakes all the programs. We are working on the life skills needed in conjunction with academic education. On other experiences, the country is promoting youth assemblies at the villages. Young people of age 18 and above can conduct three-year term elections for youth councils at the level of villages. In terms of legislation, there is a very specific focus on youth, especially in reproductive health.
- **Hon. Hamood Al Yahyaai**, MP Oman: Who funded the Youth Foundation in Azerbaijan? Are the international projects of the foundation directed to the youth of Azerbaijan outside their country or to the youth of the country?
- **Hon. Shahin Ismayilov**, MP Azerbaijan: The government supports the Youth Foundation. As for international projects, they support Azerbaijanis living abroad and in some cases the youth of foreign countries, such as in Malaysia.
- **Dr. Musa Braizat**, Secretary General for the Jordanian National Human Rights Center, Jordan: The national councils are independent commissions and we need to integrate the human rights concept into the economic development and sustainable development policies. Without the four rights— education, food, health and access to information — we will not be able to sustain development.
- **Hon. Tomasito Villarin**, MP Philippines: We totally agree in Philippines that those rights are important to sustainable development and we do have an independent commission to monitor the human rights.

Session 3: Health Society and Gender Equality: Women empowerment, UHC and Youth Access to RH

Session Chair: Hon. Tamer Bino, MP Jordan

“Universal Access to Reproductive Health and Family Planning”

Hon. Dr. Sahar Qawasmi, MP Palestine

Hon. Dr. Qawasmi mentioned that though she is coming from the land of peace, in which people, unfortunately, during the last 100 years did not live a day in peace. It is the first time the pray stopped in Al Aqsa Mosque, but she made herself available in this important event where she would like to speak about not only Palestine but also the Arab region.

Health, according to WHO, as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Reproductive health addresses the reproductive processes, functions and system at all stages of life. Reproductive health, therefore, implies that people are able to have a responsible, satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide when and how often to do so.

Hon. Dr. Qawasmi continued her presentation with assuring that reproductive health including family planning is an important part of sustainable development, and it is linked to all the SDGs as one of the main achievements from the 20th century along with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Law.

The presenter pointed out that according to the world population pyramid the Arabs are still in the (B) area that needs help and support. The region is seeing the lower number of newborns, and this is part of achieving the SDGs. In the Arab and North Africa region, there are changes that are influencing positively on sustainable development. For example more than 65% of the population is youth, which is not only a challenge but also an opportunity as well, known as Youth Extrusion that can be used to create sustainable growth opportunities in our communities.

Another problem of Youth Extrusion is the lack of job opportunities; 25% of Arab youth are suffering from unemployment. According to a study by UNDP, in order to keep the percentage as it is till 2020, we need to create 17 million job opportunity. In general, the Arab region is suffering from crisis either directly or indirectly.

According to the figures of the births, we can notice that there is a huge jump in giving births during and after the crisis, and it can be linked to not being able to reach contraceptive methods or the need of the feeling of security.

It is worth mentioning that all SDGs are connected and complete each other. The presenter added that in terms of the awareness of the SDGs' importance some progress has been made, but still individuals do face inequality in reproductive health services. This issue needs more attention from all stakeholders, especially parliamentarians in the Arab and North Africa regions, since those regions are witnessing and experiencing a prominent youth bulge.

At the end, she pointed out humanitarian problems such as refugees, early marriage, maternal leave problem, child mortality, and sexuality transmitted diseases.

“Girls/Women Empowerment as a Driving Force for Sustainable Development”

Hon. Dr. Sawsan Majali, MP Jordan

Hon. Dr. Majali talked about the 5th Goal of the SDGs on women equality, saying that some countries use different terms than equality, such as equity and/or equivalent, but the important thing is that women obtain same opportunities as men on health, education, services and rights.

The gender inequality result new problems for women, and though the world is working on that we need more collaboration to assure it to all women, especially in terms of a wages gap between men and women in the private sector.

As for the political participation, there is some progress from 13% to 23% but still low, assuring that it is important to promote women's participation in politics and economy.

As for female genital mutilation, Jordan does not have a major problem with it, but 200 million female in the world are suffering from it, affecting negatively their health. Also, there is an issue of early/child marriage, where 750 million female got married under the age of 18. Unfortunately in Jordan, only two days ago, new regulations were issued for the marriage between ages 15–18. As for violence against women, one out of five females is exposed to violence, and there are 49 countries in the world that still lack of the laws to protect families against violence.

Hon. Dr. Majali spoke about women with disabilities: 19% of females comparing to 12% of males are considered people with disabilities. Women with disabilities face a lot of inequality, such as the right for education, health and work.

In conclusion, she mentioned that the 5th Goal of the SDGs is importance to promote women participation in all decision-making process and development, as well as protecting their rights in all services, including in financial issues. Women integration in development plans will be a great investment, and thus parliamentarians should have an effective role in the development of agenda regarding women issues through legislation, oversight and budget planning.

“Health as a Principal Determinant of the National Development: Healthy Youth, Safe Lifestyle and RH”

Eng. Mayson Zoubi, President of Higher Population Council in Jordan

Eng. Zoubi presented the role of the Higher Population Council as the reference to the population issues in Jordan. This office contributes to developing policies, strategies and work plans and follow-up its implementation, as well as advocacy and promoting awareness of all-related topics in coordination with other stakeholders.

In Jordan, we have witnessed high rates of reproduction in the past, but we are now in a better position and are moving to reach the replacement level in 2040. This will affect the age structure of having more youth, considered as an opportunity or a population window. In this respect, if the state plans sustainable development well, Jordan may have a lower population growth, accompanying economic growth.

She stated that we need to raise the awareness of society, improve education and health, and accelerate the economic growth and demographic dividend for sustainable development. We also need to promote policies that encourage foreign investment, women empowerment, youth capacity building and many other issues.

Eng. Zoubi recommended focusing on reproductive health, admitting that unfortunately there is ignorance in Jordan on RH issues. He added that we need to encourage youth to eliminate sexually transmitted disease, which is considered a problem that can be solved by giving more attention on reproductive health services and family planning.

At the end, she pointed out that all stakeholders must work on promoting awareness on health issues among youth, which is a key factor for sustainable development. Other vital issues are encouraging education among women and promoting the concepts of creativity and entrepreneurship, as well as enhancing the economic situation and investment, promoting good governance and enhancing all the health issues.

Discussion

- **Hon. Dr. Hamood Al Yahyai**, MP Oman: Please tell us more about the wage gap between women and men. Since in Oman we have the same salary of the position no matter of gender.
- **Hon. Dr. Sawsan Majali**, MP Jordan: In Jordan, there is a wage gap especially in the private sector. For example, for the same position women get fewer wages than men. Nowadays, the Ministry of Labor is working on monitoring and controlling this matter. It is not only in Jordan even in USA they have the wage gap. As for inheritance and other financial issues, a study done 5 years ago by Oxfam pointed out that this is a major problem for Arab women, because she suffers from pressure by the family to concede to the male family members. Sometimes women work but give her salary because of pressure from a family member.
- **Hon. Dr. Sahar Qawasmi**, MP Palestine: In Palestine only 6% of women get their right in inheritance, since the families compensate women with lower amount of money by family pressure.
- **Hon. Dr. Hamood Al Yahyai**, MP Oman: Is it really important to have a Higher Population Council?
- **Eng. Mayson Zoubi**, President of Higher Population Council, Jordan: Definitely, since in Jordan the population factor is not taken into consideration in policies or budgets. It is important to have a Council to work on population-related issues.
- **Hon. Dr. Hamood Al Yahyai**, MP Oman: How much is the certainty that we can achieve the population opportunity?
- **Eng. Mayson Zoubi**, President of Higher Population Council, Jordan: In the population opportunity we study the projections and forecasts, but it needs to be planned to gain it.
- **Hon. Dr. Sawsan Majali**, MP Jordan: The population opportunity is an expectation, and that is why it is foreseen to continue by 2030. Due to the refugees' problem in Jordan, now it is expected to be in 2067. The real problem is that other stakeholders and the government are not committed to implement the plans to achieve it.
- **Hon. Dr Sahar Qawasmi**, MP Palestine: The demographic window or population opportunity can be seen in Malaysia, where they used the youth opportunities to achieve sustainable development through equipping them with needed skills.

Day Two: Wednesday 19 July 2017

Al Salt City, Jordan / Field Visit

Al Salt Development Center (SDC)

The field visit started with a visit to Al Salt Development Corporation (SDC). The visit was attended by a number of high officials and public dignitaries, including the Chief of Board of Directors of SDC, Al Balqaa Governor and the Chief of Balqaa public security directorate.

A member of SDC delivered a presentation of general information about Al Salt city and SDC. Al Salt city is located 30 kilometer North-west of Amman, close to the Baptism site and the Dead Sea. Al Salt population is around 90,000.

SDC is a non-profit organization that was established in 1982 to serve and construct Salt city. The objectives of SDC includes but not limited to: supporting culture, health and education, enhancing women rights and providing community serving. As for the education component, the center started to support students since 1985 through a pioneer center for talented school student.

SDC has cooperated with a number of institutions locally in Al Salt city such as the Holy Land Institute, while SDC has also cooperated internationally and built relations with international organizations such as Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The Holy Land Institute for Deaf

The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf is a non-profit foundation, it provides educational and rehabilitation services for people with hearing impairment. The institute also provides audiology service and hearing aids, and the outreach program for children in refugee camps.

The Institute roots go back to the church mission, when it built the hospital in 1849, and in 1873 it started the medical operation. The hospital used to be as a house for nutrition after 1948 Palestinian refugees. In 1964 it started to provide the services to deaf persons. And then the progress expanded rapidly with providing services for children with disability. The school includes now 150 students instead of 30 at the beginning.

Day Three: Thursday 20 July 2017
Venue: Amman Cham Palace Hotel, Jordan

“Introduction about APDA”

Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, Executive Director/Secretary General of APDA, Japan

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) was established in 1982 as the legal and institutional body to support the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on population and development (AFPPD), growing parliamentarian’s activities on Population and Development.

At that time, the world population was increasing rapidly, and this explosive population growth was considered as a significant obstacle to social and economic development in developing countries.

In 1973, a group of Japanese parliamentarians led by former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi went on an inspection tour to Asian countries focusing on the population situation. It struck the group that Japanese international cooperation in the field of population was important in order to promote peaceful, sustainable development in the region.

Given that population issues cannot be forced upon people, parliamentarians as representatives of people should play a role in bridging the government and constituents. Also, Japan should assist in legislation and resource mobilization necessary to address population issues, by transferring Japanese experiences and financially supporting UNFPA and IPPF.

Based on this conviction, the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), the very first non-partisan parliamentarian group committed to population and all that it involves, was established JPFP in 1974.

JPFP’s active engagement led to the creation of AFPPD, as well as the regional fora of Latin America, Europe, and Africa and Arab regions. Currently, AFPPD has a fully independent secretariat and has actively engaged in parliamentarians’ activities in the Asian region.

APDA, the Secretariat of JPFP, has shifted its focus on the inter-regional activities, promoting exchanges among Asian, Arab and African parliamentarians working in the field of population and development. This project is one of such initiatives.

Session 4: Impact of Economic Development and International Division of Labor for Young People

Session Chair: Hon. Dr. Hmoud Al Yahyai, MP Oman

“Investment in Environment and Youth Population” **Dr. Atef Rwedan, Manager of Al Hussein Youth City**

The presenter stressed on the necessity of paying attention to youth as they constitute the majority of the society, especially in Jordan, and they are the advancement and the progress of any civilization. Youth are the pioneers and agents of change and are part of the comprehensive development of social, economic, sports, political and other fields at present and in the future.

The presenter mentioned that it is not only the responsibilities of the government, but CSOs also have a huge role to play in supporting youth and building their capacity. And this should be on scientific-based approach. The work on youth issues must be collaborative work between the public, private and CSOs, and paying attention to youth must be through specialized experts or consultants, who are knowledgeable about youth factors to help them build positive characters at early ages, in order to support them in planning their future, engage with society and to find jobs.

According to Dr. Rwedan the world's youth population is 1.5 billion, out of which three-quarters live in developing countries. Therefore, developing youth strategies are the main focus in many countries, aiming to find the best solutions to enable and empower youth. Most of the youth strategies, studies, publications and conference have been addressing the youth in the Arab world. He added that His Majesty King Abdullah II considers the investment in youth as one of the important factors in development and a noble investment, giving an intensive attention to providing youth with skills to achieve sustainable development. In order to achieve His Majesty's mission and direction, the National Youth strategy was developed and all the stakeholders are taking a role in implementing the strategy and empowering youth.

The presenter pointed out that it is important to educate the society about youth issues and to have in place protection plans at schools, clubs and summer youth camps. It is necessary to revise the education curriculum, admonish and direct youth, and give them the needed awareness about issues they suffer from. In addition, establishing institutions to support youth innovation is important to achieve sustainable development.

Dr. Rwedan pointed out some of the challenges of youth that includes but not limited to:

1. Unemployment and lack of job opportunities;
2. Drugs: half million of the Jordanian youth suffer from drugs related problems;
3. Limited participation in political and economic issues;
4. Abundance of free time that is exploited negatively in many cases;
5. The wars affected the mindset of youth and they are more concerned about their future and identity;
6. The demographic growth is not aligned with the increase in income;
7. Environmental problems;
8. Poverty; and
9. Lack of justice and equality that enhances the citizenship

Dr. Rwedan closed his presentation with some recommendations as follow:

- Putting preventive plans for youth;
- Establishing summer clubs and camps to provide protection and support to youth;
- Developing curricula in universities to focus on quality not quantity;
- Providing advice to youth against child and early age marriage;
- Encountering social-related problems, family, health and moral issues;
- Raising the awareness of youth on health through strategies;

- Ensuring that youth are engaged in power to develop them democratically and enhance their participation in programs on democratic empowerment;
- Qualifying youth in the early stages with all life skills; and
- Establishing small and medium projects and support youth initiatives.

“Challenges and Achievements on Accountability, Transparency and Good Governance: Sharing the African Experience with Specific Reference to Malawi”
Hon. Paul Chibingu, Vice Chair of FPA, MP Malawi

The presenter started with the definition of accountability, transparency and good governance, saying that in recent years it becomes universal features of policy statements and programmes of international development organizations.

Hon. Chibingu defined accountability as taking or being assigned responsibility for something that you have done or something you are supposed to do, while the definition of transparency as the minimum degree of disclosure to which agreements, dealings, practices and transactions are open to all for verifications. He added that both transparency and accountability should be viewed as tools for governance. Both are means aimed at achieving the end and are not the end themselves.

As for the definition of governance, it is the action, manner or power of governing. Some scholars have argued that the enhanced performance of governmental agencies in any nation is a product of accountability, transparency and good governance, which in return brings about improvement in the living standards of the people.

The presenter talked about the origins of good governance in Africa, saying that in Africa, Thandika Mkandawire of LSE contends that the concept of good governance came from African scholars themselves. It followed a World Bank report, commissioned in 1989 that underlined the belief that lack of ‘good governance’ might be the main hindrance to economic growth in Africa. This report categorically declared that the litany of Africa’s development problems is a crisis of governance. According to Olaniyan (2005), governance was perceived as a critical factor to accelerating sustainable economic growth and development.

Historically, by 1880’s Africa was colonized by Britain, France, Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Germany. Olaniyan (2005) opined that the scramble for Africa was about minerals and agriculture wealth which Europeans wanted to exploit. By 1950’s and 1960’s the majority of many African countries came into existence following the end of World War II.

After the attainment of independence, the majority of African countries continued to rely on centralized and highly personalized forms of government, and some had fallen into an unacceptable pattern of corruption, ethnically-based decision making and human rights abuses. In the late 1990’s, as the development process of Africa came under intense scrutiny, the attention of observers shifted to the relevance of governance.

However, Governance was already an important feature of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which was established in 1963. Governance was accorded priority by the African Union (AU), which replaced the OAU in 2002. The African Union Constitutive Act of 2002 articulated guidelines on governance for the continent. Further elaborations have been demonstrated by the African Union and its various institutions following the adoption of statutes and protocols to safeguard governance on the continent.

Likewise, regional cooperation bodies under the AU have persistently continued to advance the cause for good governance by adopting several instruments and protocols. On the national level, African governments have adopted national constitutions that allow them to govern their countries. What the statutes and protocols demand is that they bind African countries to be transparent, accountable and abide by the rule of law. It is anticipated that based on the adherence to the above principles, African governments will have the legitimacy to rule over the people.

Hon. Chibingu referred to Olaniyan's (2005) highlights on the following challenges on governance in Africa:

At Continental level

1. Institutional Capacity – the transformation of the OAU into AU left the institution with the challenge of institutional capacity that needed to be filled with the best African brains but due to inadequate funding the organization is unable to attract such cadres;
2. Supranational authority and transfer of sovereignty – there is the challenge of transfer of sovereignty to the supranational authority;
3. Financial Resources – inadequate financial resources for the operation of the AU;
4. Other challenges- they include lack of developed infrastructure including harmonization of commercial and transport laws and regulations;

At national level

1. Decentralization – at the national level, the policy of devolution of power and authority to subnational governments is perceived as a method of re-establishing African states and rebuilding legitimacy from the bottom up. Decentralization has been hit by lack of capacity of local administrators;
2. Rule of Law and Human Rights – lack of respect by leaders and citizens for the rule of law and human rights often poses a great challenge to stability;
3. Public Administration – there are always challenges in the reform initiatives undertaken by African countries. Some have to do with lack or insufficient of resources and others are structural (system), while others are cultural;
4. Peace and stability – at the national level, wars, civil strife and the proliferation of light weapons militate against the efforts of some countries in the establishment of Sustainable Development;
5. Other challenges – lack of civic education among citizens, leading to low participation in the political process at both national and local levels, low gender participation especially in the legislature, weak exploitation of the potential of traditional rules in the governance process, and lack of credibility of the electoral system, especially of the Electoral Commissions;

Hon. Chibingu also presented the governance in Malawi:

Malawi became independence in 1964 and subsequently a republican in 1966 under the authoritarian rule of Dr. Hastings Komuz Banda. In the 1990's, following the wind of change that blew over Africa, Malawi changed to multiparty system of government. In 1993, Malawi held a referendum to introduce multiparty system of government. In 1994, Malawi held its first multi-party general elections. In 1995, Malawi came up with a liberal constitution which provided for the establishment of democratic institutions of governance. These include: the Law Commission; the Parliament; the Office of the Ombudsman; the Anti-Corruption Bureau; and the Malawi Human Rights Commission.

According to Hon. Chibingu the governance challenges in Malawi are followings:

1. In Malawi, the concept of decentralization was redefined and articulated in the 1995 Constitution with the aim of allowing more Members to participate in the country's development programmes. In 1996, Malawi adopted the decentralization policy that paved way for the enactment of the Local Government Act in 1998.

Between 2000 and 2005, Malawi had the first district assemblies. Between 2005 and 2014, there were no assemblies in place as the Councils operated without Councilors. This was a

result of failure to comply with the electoral laws. Currently, the assemblies are in place following the 2014 tripartite elections. However, Malawi has not fully decentralized due to lack of political will, line Ministries' disregard to decentralization, shortage of human resource and resistance by public officers to decentralize.

2. Rule of law and human rights – there is always the lack of respect by leaders and citizens for the rule of law and human rights. For instance, Malawi adopted a zero tolerance on corruption in 2004 but to date efforts to thwart corruption have been hindered by the lack of respect towards anti-corruption drive.
3. Public Administration – currently, the government is implementing the public service delivery reform programme with the aim of improving service delivery. The programme which is largely supported by donors is meeting a lot of problems mostly on the financing side.

“Actions for Global Partnership and International Division of Labor”

Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand

Hon. Sirathranont started with pointing out that international division of labor came out of globalization, adding that Thailand competes with the illegal work force which harms the local economies. He mentioned that the migratory workforce in Thailand comes mainly from Myanmar, and illegal workforce focuses on agriculture and sea food, which reached 25 million people. The presenter pointed out that the International conventions on child and trafficking in persons issued the trafficking prohibiting law in 2017.

Hon. Dr. Sirathranont explained that Thailand started to work on investing in youth by having free education, dual education and professional education in its national educational system. It also had a role in enacting Act of prevention and solution of adolescent pregnancy problems.

Hon. Dr. Sirathranont added that parliamentarians have a significant role in protecting the rights of youth and provide youth with decent life. He also clarified that another role of parliamentarians is to develop laws to improve workplace and youth issues.

Finally he recommended actions to better protect the youth rights and achieve sustainable development:

- Encouraging stakeholder dialogues including civil society organization, public sector, private sector and media;
- Monitoring the implementation of legislation and public policies;
- Ensuring oversight through the parliamentary committees;
- Developing new development agenda;
- Promoting transparency, accountability and good governance.

Discussion

- **Hon. Shahin Ismayilov**, MP Azerbaijan: Do you have a foundation or resources for business incubators in Jordan? If yes, please provide information.
- **Dr. Atef Rwedan**, Manager of Al Hussein Youth City, Jordan: Yes, we have the Ministry of Youth as well as a specialized law about youth care. There are 200 youth centers in Jordan and 360

clubs and other related institutions, such as youth houses and camps. The Ministry of Labor and Ministry of Youth are cooperating together to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship and qualify youth with the required skills for jobs through the national strategy for youth.

- Intervention: We should start investing in children and complete investment in youth, in which the character at that time will be completed, emphasizing the moral values and education.
- **Dr. Atef Rwedan**, Manager of Al Hussein Youth City, Jordan: I totally agree, and therefore in Jordan we work with youth from 12–30 years old.
- **Hon. Mohamed Al Touil**, MP Morocco: Most of the Arab and African countries are suffering from the same situation in Malawi on accountability and good governance, in which a big part of it is connected to the political will and social values. The bigger challenge in the Arab and African regions is conceptualizing the term of development, and to make the theme aligned with the national situation, in which we need the effort on both political and cultural levels to conceptualize the terms of development while enhancing citizenship.
- **Hon. Paul Chibingu**, MP Malawi: I would like to reassure that without accountability, transparency and good governance we will not be able to achieve anything. And as parliamentarians we have to share with our colleagues that we are not doing well regarding our roles to improve transparency and accountability and we need to be accountable to our people and fulfill our role. We need to concentrate as well on women and youth empowerment in all sectors.
- Intervention: the Arab countries are still unable to develop public policies on youth, and main challenges are:
 1. Sectorial approach: the youth is linked to all sectors not only the Minister of Youth;
 2. Technocratic approach;
 3. Dealing with youth as an abstract not an opportunity;
 4. Lack of development of comprehensive strategies that focus on all youth issues.
- **Dr. Atef Rwedan**, Manager of Al Hussein Youth City, Jordan: Jordan has a rich experience in developing the National Strategy for Youth, in which the first and the second phases of it were implemented successfully. Recently we just adopted a new one to work on all different issues related to youth. As for youth as a challenge or an opportunity, the answer is both.
- Intervention: We, as parliamentarians, have a role in promoting global partnerships. Parliamentarians can set and work on common standards.
- **Hon. Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim**, MP Malaysia: We have not yet understood the future, and we have to prepare young people as needed for the future. We must discuss what roles parliamentarians should play in shaping the future.
- Intervention: Operational strategic plans in strategies are not linked to executive plans because they need intensive financial analysis, In addition to that, the size of support for young people is insufficient though we are trying to connect the generation of youth to global communication, but do we direct the communication to serve this generation and the future? Please elaborate.
- **Dr. Atef Rwedan**, Manager of Al Hussein Youth City, Jordan: The first and second phases of the National Strategy for Youth were implemented successfully, and recently we just adopted the third phase. As for the action plan, we are discussing it right now and your intervention is highly appreciated.
- **Hon. Dr. Hmoud Al Yahyai**, MP Oman: What kind of training or capacity building do youth need in that sector? And what are our roles as parliamentarians to drive the governments to work on that to build the youth future?

- **Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont**, MP Thailand: I think that our job must focus on the SDGs, especially Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; and Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, to be able to solve our problems.
- **Hon. Husain Dalwai**, MP India: My recommendation for parliamentarians is to assure the rights and freedom of all people, not only youth, and fight discrimination.

Session 5: Parliamentarians' Role on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Session Chair: Hon. Dr. Mohamed Al Touil, MP Morocco

This session focused on parliamentarians' role in promoting transparency, accountability and good governance (TAGG), legislation and budgeting that may contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, through regional and inter-regional cooperation.

Hon. Jumaa Kaabi, MP Bahrain

Hon. Kaabi expressed his gratitude to organizers and hosting side, highlighting the role of parliamentarians in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the reforms in Bahrain. He briefed about the achievement of Bahrain in economic, social and political levels, including the rights of women and children.

According to Hon. Kaabi, though there are a variety of definitions of sustainable development, the most important part is the one related to social dimension and population indicators since they are the variables that need to be considered in process of development planning. In Bahrain, the country uses those indicators in their strategies to enhance sustainable development and achieve the welfare for people.

The presenter added that in Bahrain's social sector, the government recognizes the importance of the relationship between spouses and children, youth and women, through adoption of relevant legislation. Bahrain achieved progress in children rights. Bahrain implemented the national strategy on youth 2011–2015 to build their capacities on culture, health and other fields. As for women empowerment, the Women Higher Council is issuing plans and programs to empower women in political and economic sector, to protect women rights and improve the living condition.

Hon. Kaabi mentioned that the health sector is making progress and that all citizens and residents can benefit from services provided. The Kingdom has supported its citizens financially and technically to enhance their capacities and support them in creating jobs. This initiative improved their ranking as first in the region and the 18th worldwide on the Economic Freedom Index for the year 2016.

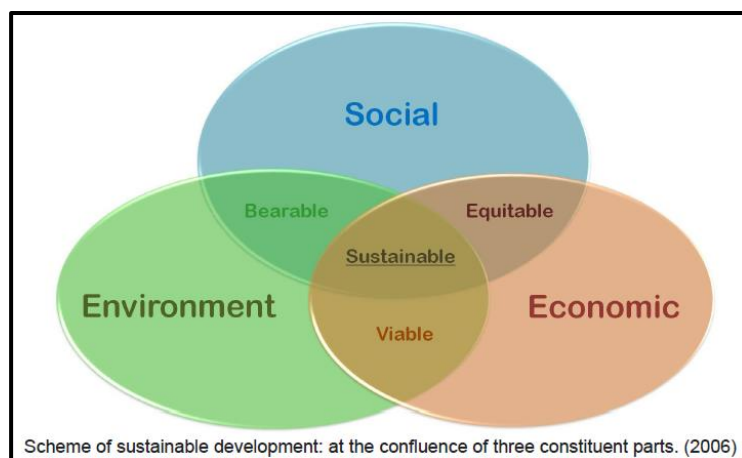
The Kingdom of Bahrain works on improving the health system to provide citizens with what they are looking for. In addition, the Kingdom is now keen on providing free and compulsory education until age 18. Moreover, the Government of Bahrain promotes the number of university graduates, and enhances youth skills in dealing with the future, which will contribute to developing the education and health systems and will lead to sustainable development. As for the housing issue, the Bahrain Constitution supports the right of decent housing to citizens.

Hon. Kaabi stressed that as parliamentarians we have a role to enact laws that guarantee the rights of citizens, equality and justice. We are required, as parliamentarians, to form a path in each aspect of sustainable development, whether by updating or enacting new legislations based on the needs of the society.

Hon. Tan Sri Ibrahim Khalid, MP Malaysia

Hon. Khalid pointed out the important role of parliamentarians on the Agenda 2030, saying that parliamentarians must appreciate and understand that sustainable development is a movement that affects all of us. He added that it is important to recognize the importance of this trend and develop meaningful ways to contribute.

He stated that the economy is perceived by the achievement of sustainable development through different tools and models with the importance of having a vision to achieve sustainable development. The sustainable development concept developed, and it has shifted to focus more on social development and environmental protection for future generations. The presenter simplified the concept by the following chart:



Hon. Ibrahim considered the parliamentarians' role in achieving the SDGs as central to the development agenda. Parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to influence the shape and content of their respective national development agenda and its implementation processes. He stated that "We have power and if it is not used then it is wasted".

The presenter explained in details the tasks of the parliamentarians' to achieve and enhance the SDGs as follow:

- Parliamentarians can exercise a leadership role in policy formulation, development of legislation and, most importantly, its implementation at the national level;
- Parliamentarians hold the purse strings. They have the power to define the fiscal and budgetary regimes needed to mobilize national resources toward financing development efforts; create new and innovative sources of financing in addition to official development assistance;
- Parliamentarians have the means to ensure oversight accountability, transparency and the strengthening of the institutions of good governance at country level;
- Parliamentarians represent their electorate and can give expression to the will and voice of citizens;
- Parliamentarians will have the task to translate the future development agenda into their very own national perspective, thus creating ownership and ultimately having the responsibility to formulating credible laws and establishing relevant institutions within the context of national realities;
- Parliamentarians should strive to build new partnerships, work more collaboratively across countries, and in interdisciplinary ways at their national levels;
- Parliamentarians will have the critical task of ensuring national accountability and oversight in the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda and the attainment of the SDGs;
- Parliamentarians must ensure that (environmental) sustainability underpins the policy making and implementation processes across all ministries, and put in place the enabling conditions for the private sector and civil society to partner with governments to engender a green economy, review issues related to consumption and production patterns, initiate national dialogues, and reinforce the interconnection in the minds of the respective citizens among the three pillars of development.

In conclusion, Hon. Khalid reassured that parliaments and parliamentarians are a key element in advancing sustainable development at their countries and abroad. Their role in holding the executive branch of government accountable during the SDGs negotiation process, ensuring transparency and accountability is of major importance.

Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Director UNFPA for the Arab Region

Dr. Shabaneh expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders of the conference. He reassured that UNFPA is committed to support FAPPD, and committed to push towards population and development issues in parliament, governmental and civil society frameworks.

He pointed out that the international criteria come from the contributions of all countries, and if it is not in line with the situation of our country, then we should blame ourselves, assuring that the sustainable development agenda was developed and discussed during three years in the United Nation by the contribution of all countries. He stressed that it is necessary to look at youth as actors not recipients.

According to Dr. Shabaneh the sustainable development agenda was built on three axes: social, economic and environmental. The population issue in the Arab region is a determinate issue; it could make or break. The gap between the haves and have-nots in the welfare is widening so the economic growth should distribute justice on people.

He stated that the Arab states-Cairo Declaration on population and development goes beyond; it includes the development of an operational guide to track progress on ICPD beyond 2014 commitments regionally, aligned with 2030 agenda. He assured that the SDGs seek to reduce poverty and inequality and improve people life and it is important for the government to keep looking to the outcome of the population and development. He added that worldwide the human rights are the same, while the response of governments in dealing with those rights differs.

In the Arab Region, all the stakeholders worked together on population and sustainable development, in which 39 indicators were identified, to develop two-year report on the advancement of people life.

Dr. Shabaneh pointed out the paragraph 45 which states the role of parliamentarians; that is: “We acknowledge the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments”. The main four roles according to that paragraph are:

1. Legislative role: effect of the adopted and developed law on population;
2. Budget adaptation: budget resources on population and development;
3. Ensuring oversight: oversight the implementation of the plans as required;
4. Advocacy: through the relationship between parliamentarians and constituencies

For the parliamentarians to fulfill their roles, they need the right information, knowledge, statistics on sustainable development, and UNFPA is ready to support all the parliamentarians with the information needed. He highlighted the fact that that parliamentarians in their constituencies have to build communication networks with all the stakeholders to promote their work.

In conclusion, Dr. Shabaneh stressed that according to the former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the role of parliamentarians was crucial in drafting the SDGs and overseeing the implementation, adding that the relation and interaction of parliamentarians with CSOs is essential as they represent the issues and problems of their citizens.

Discussion

- **Dr. Khadija Mosleh**, IPPF Morocco: Parliamentarians’ roles include working closely with governments, public institutions, regional and local authorities, sub-regional institutions, international institutions, academia, philanthropic organizations, volunteer groups and others, in order to achieve sustainable development.

- **Dr. Osamu Kusumoto**, Executive Director/Secretary-General of APDA, Japan: Most of the parliamentarians are not experts on population issues. Parliamentarians are elected by people, not belonging to the government or IOs, and their role is to foresee and make decisions for the future. If parliamentarians are only reconceiving lectures from UN organizations, there is no point of parliamentarians' activities. In order to achieve our common goal of sustainable development, the essence of their activities is to provide parliamentarians an opportunity to learn population issues and translate the voices of their people as well as parliamentarians own insights into the international population programmes. In this sense, parliamentarians' ownership is important. We would like to request UNFPA regional directors and national representatives, who work with parliamentarians in respective countries, to pay attention to the voices of people and parliamentarians' wisdom and endeavor to align them with the UNFPA's programmes.
- **Dr. Luay Shabaneh**, Director UNFPA for the Arab Region: The United Nations is inter-governmental body, and each institution has its own mandate and part of it is to make sure that each mandate is reflected in balance with the SDGs. As for the future expectations, we have to work on scientific data and analysis and parliamentarians must enhance their knowledge on development issues through the research centers and the linking between all institutions.
- **Hon. Abdelmajid Tagguiche**, MP Algeria: To establish communication channel between UNFPA and the parliamentary permanent health committees. In addition to that, I recommend for our conference to establish a committee from Arab, Asian and African parliamentarians with UNFPA and other institutions to collect all the legislation related to health, women and youth empowerment and other related issues and work on them and support all stakeholders to develop and issue laws that serve the above fields.
- **Dr. Luay Shabaneh**, Director UNFPA for the Arab Region: We would like to be in the committee you recommended.
- **Hon. Dr. Reda Khawaldeh**, MP Jordan: As legislators, in addition to many policies, agenda, strategies and plans, from which more accurate point we need to start for oversight?
- **Dr. Luay Shabaneh**, Director UNFPA for the Arab Region: We have to start with the national side and the national agenda, but at the same time parliamentarians must oversight the government commitment to the international agreements.
- **Hon. Tomasito Villarin**, MP Philippines: In Philippines, since 1989 established the Philippines Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) from a group of senators and parliamentarians. With Agenda 2030, the role for parliamentarians to work on budgets should be addressed, particularly to make sure that democratic institutions are in place and to promote participatory governance including the role of CSOs. In our experience, CSOs are very important and crucial in terms of pushing for legislation.
- Intervention: Worldwide we are witnessing environmental degradation, and how can we as parliamentarians convince our government to tackle this important part of sustainable development?
- **Dr. Luay Shabaneh**, Director UNFPA for the Arab Region: The agenda is stable even if the management is changing.
- **Hon. Jumaa Kaabi**, MP Bahrain: In Bahrain, we do control the protection of environment and we will keep on doing that.
- Intervention: Parliamentarians in most of countries are subject to elections, and they have a huge work load. Therefore, it is important for the secretariat to support parliamentarians' activities working on population and development. On the regional level and due to budget limitations

APDA can provide a meeting once or twice a year, which will not be sufficient. In order to further the implementation of the SDGs, parliamentarians' capacity enhancement is crucial, so is finding financial sources to support their activities.

- **Hon. Tan Sri Ibrahim Khalid, MP Malaysia:** Economic development is the way to achieve sustainable development.
- **Hon. Jumaa Kaabi, MP Bahrain:** We have very active SCOs that are strong and accomplish its work.

Session 6: *The Adoption of Parliamentarians Statement*

Session Chair: Hon. Dr. Reda Khawaldeh, MP Jordan

In this session parliamentarians actively discussed and adopted an outcome document with focus on obstacles that they face and concrete measure to be developed, introducing the legislations to improve population and development.

Closing Ceremony

Address

Hon. Husain Dalwai, MP India

Hon. Dalwai thanked the hosting country Jordan and its parliament and all the organizing parties of this event – FAPPD, APDA and JPFP – for the successful conference, and expressed his pleasure in working with Arab parliamentarians and the close collaboration between the Arab and Asian parliamentarians. He stressed the importance of social protection, population issues, health protection and sustainable development for all people.

Increasing population does create the stress on limited resources and it results in difficulties in achieving the SDGs. Utilizing and adopting human rights is the best approach to achieve the results we are looking for.

The stakeholders must work together for implementing proper planning to solve different challenges mentioned in the sessions, and for parliamentarians to establish the basic conditions essential for people happiness.

In the recent times, refugees are the most important population concern. They are displaced and their human rights need to be protected, assuring as well women's rights and empowerment.

Address

Dr. Khadija Mosleh, IPPF Morocco

Dr. Mosleh expressed pleasure of IPPF to all the organizers and participants of this event and the filed visit, in which participants shared the successful stories and experiences that they are proud of, hoping it will contribute to sustainable development.

She said that IPPF and partner organizations work on the right area, sexual and reproductive health including gender and youth. The capacity of youth should be used to prevent adverse effect and it is vital to seek expanding the services provided for youth and women. Dr. Mosleh stressed that IPPF also works to raise the awareness of youth on sexual health and let youth voices heard.

She added that it is necessary to recognize the relation between reproductive health and the SDGs, and thus we should cooperate with FAPPD to enact and draft laws especially related to sexual reproductive health for youth.

We are all working in a difficult situation, where decreasing resources and increasing challenges; therefore the parliamentarians' role in intensifying efforts, unifying visions and paving the path of advocating for sustainable development as part of the response to raise resources and achieve the SDGs.

At the end, she suggested following up on the outcomes of this meeting and the implementation of the recommendation through programs and action plans.

Address

Hon. Hiroyuki Nagahama, Vice Chair of JPFP, MP Japan

Over the last three days, we have learned a great deal from exchanging views with fellow parliamentarians from different regions. And we now share the same aspirations concerning population and sustainable development. I believe all of us learned much from our predecessors who had the foresight and wisdom to establish regional parliamentary organizations.

From the very start, our activities have always been carried out in a strictly supra-partisan manner. We may sometimes have different views between the ruling and opposition parties in our countries, but when it comes to the central challenge of sustaining human survival on our planet we have never faltered in our commitment to work together.

Principles and ideals are important to guide our way as politicians, but unlike well-meaning scholars and theoreticians we must follow clear paths to achieving our purpose. And that must start with accurate analysis of facts and actual conditions.

Politicians must also be accountable. Regardless of our creeds and principles, we are accountable for the results of the work we undertake. And we must not forget that our deeds will be judged by history in the future.

I belong to an opposition party, but with regard to the issues of population and development we have a shared understanding among the political parties in Japan. This is a field that anyone wishing to improve the state of the world will easily understand the need for these activities. It follows that we must work together above party idiosyncrasies to meet the needs for achieving sustainable development. When some of us in the opposition party realize that some change should be made we can always make suggestions to the government through members of the ruling party.

Political arguments are often led by ideals and doctrines, but none of us want to see them lead us to misfortune. Whatever differences of opinion may exist among us, we all agree that we are working to realize the dreams and ideals of the citizens we represent. Our core principle is no less than to bring happiness to our citizens. This is no small task. The only way for us to realize our common purpose is to understand the necessary conditions, enlist those who are of the same mind, and make steady efforts.

The resolution of population issues through achieving the universal access to reproductive health (RH) services is the basic measure needed, which becomes at the same time its foundation. This will help to prevent tragedies and to build a basis of happiness. As politicians we have the responsibility and the power to build a society where everybody can live with human dignity. I would very much like to work hand in hand with all of you to solve these problems.

And from the bottom of my heart I thank the Senate of Jordan and the FAPPD secretariat for their enormous collaboration in realizing this event. I would like to see a further development in the future of initiatives forged during this conference, such as ensuring continued collaboration between regions and concrete parliamentary collaborative actions to achieve our SDGs.

I will conclude this closing address with my wish that we will have another opportunity to get together in the near future to further deepen the discussions we began this time.

Thank you very much.

Closing Address

Hon. Marwan Al-Hmoud, Secretary-General of FAPPD, MP Jordan

Hon. Hmoud thanked all participants, organizations and parties that made this conference successful. He acknowledged FAPPD's hard work and collaboration with other stakeholders.

He mentioned that as parliamentarians we need collaboration and joint mission and establish partnerships at the regional and international levels. Hon. Hmoud added that he is looking forward to investing in the outcomes and recommendations of this conference and to transferring the program into feasible implementation.

Annexes

Programme

Asian and Arab Parliamentarians Meeting and Study Visit on Population and Development

**From Youth Bulge to Demographic Dividend: Toward Regional Development and
Achievement of the SDGs**

18-20 July 2017

Amman, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

17 July 2017

Arrival of participants

18 July 2017 – Day 1

09:40-10:20 Registration (Venue: The Jordanian Senate Hall, The Senate Building of Jordan)

10:30-11:00 Opening (Venue: The Jordanian Senate Hall, The Senate Building of Jordan)

MC: Dr. Khaled Walid Al-Sboul

Address of Organizer: **Hon. Ichiro Aisawa**, Acting Chair of JPFP, MP Japan

Address of Host Organization: **Hon. Marwan Al-Hmoud**, Secretary General of FAPPD, MP Jordan

Address: **Dr. Luay Shabaneh**, UNFPA Director for the Arab Region

Address: **Mr. Tarek Ghedira**, Chair of IPPF Arab World Regional Executive Committee

Opening Statement: **H.E. Mr. Ma'rouf Al-Bakeet**, Acting Speaker of Senate, Jordan

11:00-12:00 Group Photo & Study Tour of Senate (Venue: The Jordanian Senate Hall, the Senate Building of Jordan)

12:00-12:30 Keynote Address: **Population, Regional Stability and Sustainable Development**

Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko, Vice Chair of JPFP, MP Japan

Hon. Samir Habashna, Former Secretary General of FAPPD, Former Interior Minister, Jordan

12:30-13:15 Session 1: The Challenges of the Region: Young Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Immigration

Themes:

1. Young refugees and displaced persons [15 min], **Hon. Abdelmadjid Tagguiche**,

	MP Algeria	
	2. Environmental aspects of migration: water crisis and food insecurity [15 min], Hon. Dr. Abdel Hadi Kasaby , MP Egypt	
	3. Promoting social stability and peaceful society [15 min], Hon. Dr. Reda Kawaldeh MP Jordan	
13:15-13:35	Discussion [20 min] Session Chair: Hon. Dr. Ibrahim Bani Hani , MP Jordan	
13:35-14:35	Lunch (Venue: The Jordanian Senate Hall, The Senate Building of Jordan)	
14:35-15:20	Session 2: Demographic Dividend and Employment Opportunity for Youth Themes: 1. Demographic Dividend and Population Issues, Hon. Jumaa Kaabi , MP Bahrain 2. Investment in youth: Role of education on youth's decent employment opportunity [15 min], Hon. Tomasito Villarin , MP Philippines 3. Youth foundation [15 min], Hon. Shahin Ismayilov , MP Azerbaijan 4. Employment opportunities as a factor of sustainable development [15 min], Mr. Haitham Khasawneh , General Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Jordan	
15:20-15:40	Discussion [20 min] Session Chair: Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva , MP Kyrgyzstan	
15:40-16:25	Session 3: Healthy Society and Gender Equality: Women Empowerment, UHC and Youth Access to RH Themes: 1. Universal access to reproductive health and family planning [15 min], Hon. Dr. Sahar Qawasmi , MP Palestine 2. Girls/Women empowerment as a driving force for sustainable development [15 min], Hon. Dr. Sawsan Majali , MP Jordan 3. Health as a principal determinant of the national development: healthy youth, safe lifestyle and RH [15 min], Eng. Mayson Zoubi , President of Higher Population Council, Jordan	
16:25-16:45	Discussion [20 min] Session Chair: Hon. Tamer Bino , MP Jordan	
19:00 –	Dinner Reception hosted by FAPPD (Venue: Fakher eldin restaurant)	

20 July 2017 - Day 3

Venue: Amman Cham Palace Jordan Hotel, Bachuse Room, -1 Flr.

09:00-09:45 Session 4: Impact of Economic Development and International Division of Labour for Young People

Themes:

1. Challenges and achievements on accountability, transparency and good governance: sharing the African experience [15 min], **Hon. Paul Chibingu**, Vice Chair of FPA, MP Malawi
2. Investment in environment and youth population [15 min], **Dr. Atef Rwedan**, Manager of Al Hussein Youth City
3. Actions for global partnership and international division of labor [15 min], **Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont**, MP Thailand

09:45-10:15 Discussion [30 min]

Session Chair: Hon. Dr. Hmoud Al Yahyai, MP Oman

10:15-10:40 Coffee Break

10:40-11:25 Session 5: Parliamentarians' Role on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Theme: Regional and inter-regional cooperation

1. **Hon. Jumaa Kaabi**, MP Bahrain [15 min]
2. **Hon. Tan Sri Ibrahim Dato' Seri Abd. Khalid**, MP Malaysia [15 min]
3. **Dr. Luay Shabaneh**, UNFPA Director for the Arab Region [15 min]

11:25-11:55 Discussion [30 min]

Chair: Hon. Mohamed Al Touil, MP Morocco

12:00-13:00 Lunch (Place: Hediard Restaurant, Grand Flr.)

13:00-14:20 Session 6 : Discussion for the Adoption of Parliamentarians Statement [80 min]

Session Chair: Hon. Dr. Reda Khawaldeh, MP Jordan

14:20-14:50 Closing

Address: **Hon. Husain Dalwai**, MP India

Address: **Dr. Khadija Mosleh**, IPPF

Address: **Hon. Hiroyuki Nagahama**, Vice Chair of JPFP, MP Japan

Closing Address: **Hon. Marwan Al-Hmoud**, MP Jordan, Secretary General of FAPPD, MP Jordan

21 July 2017: Departure of Participants

Organized by:

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

Hosted by:

The Jordanian Senate

Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD)

Supported by:

The Japan Trust Fund (JTF)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)



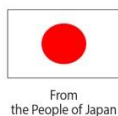
Participants list

MPs and National Committees on Population and Development				
1	Hon.	Abdelmadjid Tagguiche	Algeria	MP
2	Hon.	Shahin Ismayilov	Azerbaijan	MP
3	Hon.	Juma Al Kaabi	Bahrain	MP
4	Hon. Dr.	Fouzia Al Jeeb	Bahrain	MP
5	Hon. Dr.	Abdelhady El Kasbey	Egypt	MP; Chair of Committee
6	Hon.	Husain Dalwai	India	MP
7	Mr.	Manmohan Sharma	India	Executive Secretary, IAPPD
8	Hon.	Ichiro Aisawa	Japan	MP; Acting Chair of JPFP
9	Hon.	Hiroyuki Nagahama	Japan	MP; Vice Chair of JPFP
10	Hon.	Teruhiko Mashiko	Japan	MP; Vice Chair of JPFP
11	H.E.	Faisal Al Fayez	Jordan	Chair of Jordanian Senate
12	H.E.	Marouf Bakhit	Jordan	Former Prime Minister
12	Hon.	Marwan Al-Hmoud	Jordan	MP; Secretary-General of FAPPD
13	Hon. Dr.	Redha Al Khawaldeh	Jordan	MP
14	Hon. Dr.	Sawsan Majali	Jordan	MP
15	Hon. Dr.	Abdel Razzaq Tubaishat	Jordan	MP
16	Hon.	Issa Khashashneh	Jordan	MP
17	Hon.	Ghazi Abu Hassan	Jordan	MP
18	Hon. Dr.	Ibrahim Bani Hani	Jordan	MP
19	Hon.	Tamer Bino	Jordan	MP
20	Hon.	Samir Habashna	Jordan	Former MP
21	Hon.	Elvira Surabaldieva	Kyrgyzstan	MP
22	Hon. Dr.	Samar Haddad	Lebanon	MP
23	Hon.	Salim Madi	Lebanon	MP
24	Hon.	Paul Chibingu	Malawi	MP; Vice-President of FPA
25	Hon.	Tan Sri Dato' Seri Abd. Khalid Ibrahim	Malaysia	MP
26	Mr.	Zamrizam Samsuri	Malaysia	Secretary of Parliament
27	Hon.	Mohamed Al Touil	Morocco	MP
28	Hon. Dr.	Hamood Al Yahyaai	Oman	MP
29	Hon. Dr.	Sahar Qawasmi	Palestine	MP
30	Hon.	Tomasito Villarin	Philippines	MP
31	Hon. Dr.	Jetn Sirathranont	Thailand	MP
Government and Embassies				
32	Mr.	Haitham Khasawneh	Jordan	General Secretary - Ministry of Labour
33	Mr.	Fadel Al Hmoud	Jordan	President of National Council for Family Affairs
34	Eng.	Mayson Al Zoubi	Jordan	President of Higher Population Council
UNFPA				
35	Dr.	Luay Shabaneh	UNFPA	Director for the Arab region
36	Ms.	Ibtisam Dababneh	Jordan	Operation Manager / Jordan Country Office
IOs & NGOs				

37	Mr.	Tarek Ghedira	IPPF	Chair of Arab World Regional Executive Committee
38	Mr.	Shtiwi Adamat	Jordan	President of Ahal AL Jabal Association
39	Dr.	Fatma Lahmar	Tunisia	IPPF
40	Dr.	Khadija Mosleh	Morocco	IPPF
41	Mr.	Mohammad Graigaa	Morocco	IPPF
42		Ali Syouf	Jordan	
Media and Observers				
43	Ms.	Safa Khasawneh	IPS	Media
44	Dr.	Dr. Atef Rwedan	Jordan	Manager of Al Hussain Youth city
45	Mr.	Rami Saed	Jordan	Observer
46		Rafat Omari	Jordan	Observer
47		Mohammad Fahem	Jordan	Observer
48		Ahmad Elayan	Jordan	Observer
49		Firas Saleh	Jordan	Observer
50		Bassam Amari	Jordan	Observer
51		Lotfi Alwan	Jordan	Observer
52		Husam Khaldi	Jordan	Observer
53		Nader al Sheh	Jordan	Observer
54		Hamdan Adham	Jordan	Observer
55		Sami Abood	Jordan	Observer
56		Laith Nimer	Jordan	Observer
57		Fouad Farhan	Jordan	Observer
58		Lana Kirey	Jordan	Observer
59		Tareq Khalaf	Jordan	Observer
60		Ahmad Abu Hasan	Jordan	Observer
61		Hassan Al Jamal	Jordan	Observer
62	Mr.	Khaldoun Khraisat	Jordan	Salt Development Corporation
63		Rola Kathebi	Jordan	Observer
FAPPD Secretariat				
64	Dr.	Mohammad Al Smadi	Jordan	Regional Coordinator of FAPPD
65	Mr.	Khaled Helalat	Jordan	Administrative
66	Ms.	Ayah Eid	Jordan	Secretariat
67		Ummaima Al Khatib		
68	Dr.	Khaled Walid Al-Sboul	Jordan	
APDA				
69	Dr.	Osamu Kusumoto	Japan	Secretary-General; Executive Director
70	Ms.	Hitomi Tsunekawa	Japan	Manager, International Affairs
71	Dr.	Farrukh Usmonov	Japan	Chief of International Affairs / Researcher
Rapporteur, Photographer, Videographer and other professionals				
72		Thaker Abdal Wahhab Alzghool	Jordan	Rapporteur
73		Ali Mahmod	Jordan	Rapporteur
74		Ashraf Mohammad	Jordan	Photographer
75		Ahmad Hamza	Jordan	Videographer
76		Yazan Armoush		Sound technician
77		Othman Danadnah	Jordan	Sound technician
78		Nour Ezah	Jordan	Sound technician

79		Belal Hindi	Jordan	Sound technician
Interpreters				
80	Ms.	Haruko Ota	Japan	Interpreter
81		Saba Essa	Jordan	Interpreter
82		Hazar Khasawneh	Jordan	Interpreter
83		Mohammad Qadumi	Jordan	Sound technician
84		Hamza Walid	Jordan	Sound technician
85		Saeed Mustafa	Jordan	Sound technician

Statement:



Asian and Arab Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development From Youth Bulge to Demographic Dividend: Toward Regional Development and Achievement of the SDGs

July 20, 2017

Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Preamble:

As parliamentarians representing the peoples of 16 Asian, Arab, African and European countries, we have gathered in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to attend the Asian and Arab Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development, to engage in discussions on the subject entitled “From Youth Bulge to Demographic Dividend: Toward Regional Development and Achievement of the SDGs”.

Achieving the SDGs will be vital if we are to engage in development that is sustainable for our planet. For that reason it is essential that we tackle issues surrounding population and young people. We welcome the holding of this Meeting, the first collaboration between Arab and Asian parliamentarians working on population and development, which focuses on these very issues. We express our view of the importance of this Meeting, both for achieving sustainable development in Arab and Asian countries and for the advancement of the SDGs through inter-regional exchanges.

Based on the outcomes of this Meeting, we will clearly identify here the conditions essential for achieving sustainable development in the Arab and Asian regions. As legislators with a responsibility for future generations in our nations, we make the following declarations with the goal of allowing young people to realize the most of their latent potential and to establish them as the driving force for their nations’ long-term growth and development.

1. Responding to crisis situations

- (1) Regional disputes generate large numbers of refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants. In order to work towards a comprehensive resolution of such situations, any action we take must follow specific policies based on a multilateral and scientific analysis of the causes of these situations, focusing our examination on the background sources of these issues.
- (2) In a crisis it is the most vulnerable groups in societies, such as women, children and minorities, who suffer the greatest harm, and from a humanitarian perspective particular attention should be directed to such vulnerable groups. Countries should be given more substantial assistance in emergencies so as to eradicate sexual and other gender-based violence (GBV), and to provide universal access to reproductive health (RH), especially for young people.
- (3) Enabling universal access to RH is absolutely fundamental for achieving “societies where the dignity of all people is safeguarded”, a guiding principle of the SDGs. To achieve that goal we call on all countries to increase their spending in this area and call on the international community to provide the necessary assistance.
- (4) As humanitarian emergency measures for people who have been forced to leave their homes such as refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as set up a food bank system to avoid any immediate food shortages and a system for the emergency distribution of food, a

system for providing basic medical relief should also be established.

(5) Lastly, where the impact of climate change and its related issues is the principle cause of people leaving their homes, a system that ensures food security should be established by immediately introducing drip irrigation and other measures to deal with extreme weather events such as drought.

2. Healthy societies and gender equality

(1) Young people enjoying good health, and equality based on respect for both sexes, are the cornerstones for social development for future generations. To raise healthy young people and build healthy societies, social systems should be established that are focused on providing basic medical care and services including RH through adopting the universal health coverage (UHC).

(2) Finally, practices and processes should be put in place that bring about the empowerment of women and allow gender equality to contribute to the development of society.

3. Capture the full benefit of the demographic dividend and young people

(1) Securing stable employment has an important significance for young people's hopes and efforts for the future. In order to create opportunities for decent employment, each country should establish national development programmes designed to make the most of its particular characteristics.

(2) In a globalizing world, one of the keys to any country's development is investment from overseas. In order to promote foreign investment and expand the employment of its young people, each country should establish accountability, transparency and good governance and create an appropriate investment environment.

(3) So that their young people can get decent employment after their education, countries should shape the comparative advantages that they hold at an international level, and focus their education investment in young people in areas that involve knowledge-intensive industries.

4. For our fellow parliamentarians

(1) Clearly identify the conditions that will enable regional peace and development, and there is no alternative to taking specific action in that regard. Advocate governments and leaders in society such as parliamentarians to recognize this fact and treat it as a goal common to all.

(2) Tackling population issues will be essential if sustainable development is to be achieved. The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994 was clear in setting down both the basic principles and actions for tackling population issues, within the context of sustainable development. For concrete actions to take, we re-affirm the ICPD's Declaration and its Programme of Action (PoA). Furthermore, we commend the pioneering work of parliamentarians in this area, as demonstrated by the fact that much of the Declaration of the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) was reflected in the Preamble and Principles that constituted the ICPD's guiding philosophies.

(3) In order to become the basis for promoting regional development and building people's happiness, a working committee will be established within the FAPPD where we will re-affirm international agreements on population and sustainable development and identify the particular issues to be tackled in common beyond the differences of ethnicities, nationalities, religions, or personal standpoints.

(4) Deepening parliamentarians' understanding on population and sustainable development will be crucial for every country's development. Parliamentarians should promote cooperation between regions in order to further invigorate their work, and they should actively advocate their parliamentary colleagues through their country's national committees.

Partnerships:

We welcome the support provided by UNPFA and we value the partnership between the FAPPD and the IPPF and we call for more partnership to support population based SDGs and call on UNPFA and IPPF to provide more technical and financial support to FAPPD and other regional parliamentarians forums on population and development and engagement in ICPD based SDGs agenda in cooperation with APDA.

Conclusion:

We wish to express our thanks to the Senate of Jordan and Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD) for hosting this Meeting. We would also like to thank the Government of Japan for its support, as well as the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), as the Secretariat for the Japanese Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), for organizing this event. Lastly we issue a strong call to Japan to make use of its experience and its research capabilities and achievements on population and sustainable development and provide further assistance to facilitate inter-regional parliamentary exchanges.