



The Arab and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on
Population and Development for ICPD+25
"Moving Forward the Unfinished Business of the ICPD"

Rabat and Casablanca, Morocco

18-20 September 2019



The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

GROUP PHOTO



Honorable Arab and Asian Parliamentarians attending *Arab and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development for ICPD+25: "Moving Forward the Unfinished Business of the ICPD"*, Rabat and Casablanca, Morocco, on 18-20 September 2019

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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

APDA	Asian Population and Development Association (Japan)
AFPPD	Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
ASRO	Arab States Regional Office (of UNFPA)
FAPPD	Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRP	High-risk Pregnancy
IAPPD	Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICPPD	International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
JPPF	Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population
JTF	Japan Trust Fund
MENA	Middle East and Northern Africa
PoA	Programme of Action
RH	Reproductive Health
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

FOREWORD

This report documents the proceedings of the Meeting and Study Visit of Arab and Asian Parliamentarians on Population and Development for ICPD+25 which was held under the theme of *“Moving Forward the Unfinished Business of the ICPD”*. The proceedings took place over two days, at the House of Councillors, Rabat, on 18 September 2019, and at a hotel in Casablanca, on 19 September 2019. On the third day, 20 September 2019, study visits were conducted to visit four relevant institutions in Casablanca.

The meeting was organized by the Asian Population and Development (APDA), hosted by the House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD) and supported by the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) and the UNFPA in cooperation with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

The aim of the meeting was to engage Arab and Asian Parliamentarians to contribute to UNFPA's strategic objectives of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, and to promote synergetic partnership among parliamentarians, UNFPA, and other stakeholders and to help formulate Action Plans for parliamentarians to respond to unique regional contexts in order to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. It also aimed at catalyzing and promoting parliamentarians' networking, which would serve the purpose of the JTF, and to enhance sustained multi-stakeholder dialogue for generating synergies among parliamentarians to achieve optimal results.

The meeting adopted a set of Parliamentarians' Recommendations for the ICPD+25 as a project outcome.

OPENING CEREMONY



Opening Address

H.E. Abdelhakim Benchamach, President of the House of Councillors of Morocco

H.E. Benchamach, President of the House of Councillors of Morocco, as the host of the meeting, began his address by welcoming all the participants to the Arab and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development, which he considers the official framework for parliamentary committees concerned with population and development issues, and which sets improvement of the quality of life of the population in respective countries as an overall goal.

He also commended the outstanding work of the APDA and FAPPD and their ongoing initiatives to raise awareness of population and development and increase levels of coordination and cooperation among parliamentarians with a view to attaining progress and prosperity. H.E. Abdelhakim Benchamach noted the support and contribution of Japan to these parliamentary activities.

Concerning the objectives of the meeting, he stressed the special importance of population and development issues, as these are becoming matters of more urgent concern in Arab and Asian countries. The President of the House of Councillors also drew attention to the issue of migration, which is becoming one of the most critical challenges to development in the MENA region. With respect to this, he pointed to the Global Charter for Safe and Organized Migration, which was recently adopted in Morocco and which defines priorities and policies as a basis for reference.

He reiterated the centrality of population and development issues especially in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which thus necessitates continued work to further the agenda adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo 25 years ago.

He concluded his address by stating that parliamentarians should effect a major shift in their thinking about population and development issues by focusing on individual rights, equality,

dignity and well-being, and by linking the issue of population to human rights, sustainable economic growth, sustainable development in holistic and cohesive ways.

Organizer's Address

Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko, MP Japan, Vice-Chair of JPFP, and Member of the Board of Directors of APDA

Hon. Mashiko began his address by expressing his appreciation to the House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the meeting. He thanked the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD) and the UNFPA's Arab States Regional Office (ASRO) for their significant role in preparing and organizing the meeting.

He began by noting the crucial role of parliamentarians back in 1994. The International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD), which was held prior to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, brought together 300 parliamentarians from 117 countries and adopted a Declaration, which was reflected in the ICPD Preambles and Principles. He stressed the full support that APDA provided to the ICPPD.

ICPD's purpose he said was to address population issues in the context of sustainable development and thus create societies where individuals live with dignity. He also stated that the ICPD considered population issues as the most vital variable in achieving sustainable development, but something which could not be forced on individuals. In this respect, Hon. Mashiko underlined that the ICPD placed an emphasis on the importance of finding appropriate measures to prevent unwanted pregnancies and by so doing had brought about a paradigm shift in thinking.

Hon. Mashiko drew attention to the human rights approach and how the debate is focused on handling both human rights and reproductive rights. He stressed that reproductive rights are important human rights, while at the same time it is imperative to be vigilant about not imposing any one peculiar set of values on people from other cultural backgrounds.

As for the role of parliamentarians vis-a-vis the ICPD's unfinished business, he reminded his audience of the responsibility of parliamentarians in shaping the future of society and in creating the best conditions possible to realize the human rights and reproductive rights identified at the ICPD through the development of necessary policies and legislation.

He pointed out two principal measures for completing the ICPD's unfinished business. The first is to ensure women's choice and their universal access to RH services, so they can prevent unwanted pregnancies, and the second is to resolve issues of sustainability in societies with an extremely low fertility rate, such as Japan, by meeting the needs and aspirations of couples who want children.

He concluded his address by stressing the importance of reaffirming the ICPD agenda and its placing of population issues within a broad perspective, and the work of parliamentarians as the fourth pillar for achieving the SDGs.

Address

Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Regional Director of UNFPA Arab States Regional Office (ASRO)

Dr. Shabaneh began his address by thanking the Kingdom of Morocco, for hosting the Arab and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development. He also thanked all the parties that made the meeting possible.

He then lauded the cooperation between UNFPA and parliamentarians as a model of a long-term working relationship in advancing the ICPD Programme of Action, and stressed the fact that cross-regional cooperation between ADPA and UNFPA enhances the global role of parliamentarians. He added that the joint meetings of parliamentarians give rise to new opportunities not only for cooperation at the individual level, but also for bilateral cooperation between countries.

This meeting, he said, is vital as it helps parliamentarians prepare for and play a decisive role in the Nairobi Summit in November, especially with regard to priorities pertaining to the unfinished business of the ICPD. He also underlined the importance of parliamentary support for aligning national commitments with global ones, and most especially for achieving the UNFPA's three zeros: zero preventable maternal deaths, zero unmet need for family planning, and zero incidences of gender-based violence or harmful practices against women.

Dr. Shabaneh also reiterated the importance of the Nairobi Summit as a historical moment for parliamentarians to commit themselves fully and intensely to accelerating the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to support UNFPA in responding to needs and challenges in the Arab countries.

He also called on parliamentarians to seize this opportunity to deal efficiently with population issues by investing in family planning, health, education, and youth employment, and concluded his address by highlighting the importance of coordination and networking between parliamentarians from the Asia and the Arab regions in building inclusive societies where everyone feels valued and able to make a positive contribution to society, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity and physical conditions.

Address

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

Hon. Al-Hmoud began his speech by thanking the Kingdom of Morocco, its King and people, as well as H.E. Abdelhakim Benchamach, President of the House of Councillors, for hosting the Arab and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development. He also thanked the Asian and Arab parliamentarians for travelling to Morocco from faraway countries to meet together and share the responsibility of addressing issues concerning population and sustainable development.

He stated that the world is on the threshold of a new stage of development as the issues of population in general and youth in particular occupy an important position, especially during the coming few years as a result of voluntary and forced mobility in the Arab region. Consequently, issues of population and of the organic interdependence between population

issues and sustainable development are at the forefront of Arab legislative efforts, with a very special attention being paid to youth issues.

Hon. Al-Hmoud also explained that the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD) was launched in 2014 as a nexus for the regional networking of parliamentary committees on population and development from the Arab legislative councils. FAPPD consists now of 18 legislative councils and has to date held meetings on population and development in Cairo, Amman, Tunis, and Manama.

He concluded his address by affirming that the issues of population and development, particularly those pertaining to youth, are now at the center of official and civil awareness because of their importance in shaping the political, economic and cultural future of Arab societies that aspire to create a decent life for future generations.



SESSION ONE: Finishing the Unfinished Business of the ICPD

Session Chair: Hon. Ghita Badroun, MP Morocco

Finishing the Unfinished Business of the ICPD

Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Regional Director of UNFPA Arab States Regional Office (ASRO)

Dr. Shabaneh started his presentation by showing a short video featuring the ICPD in Cairo 1994. He then talked briefly about the aspirations and achievements of the ICPD as well as aspects of the ICPD's unfinished business, using a number of charts and statistics to demonstrate what has been hitherto achieved and what has yet to be attained.

As shown by Dr. Shabaneh, a good number of concrete positive results have been achieved, such as the now prevalent use of modern contraceptives among Arab women of reproductive age. According to the graph, in 1969 only 11% of women used such contraceptives, while since 1994 the number of women using modern contraceptives has risen to 62%. The maternal death rate dropped from 316 per 100 000 live births in 1994 to 127 per 100 000 live births in 2015. Maternal death dropped by 43% among Arab women since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action in Cairo, while in Asia it dropped by 60%.

Dr. Shabaneh mentioned that many women and adolescent girls still die in childbirth from preventable causes and that UNFPA was working at all levels to promote universal access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and to make motherhood safer.

On the same note, Dr. Shabaneh showed a graph regarding child marriage in the Arab and Asian regions. Although in 1994 one out of three girls was married before the age of 18, the number has dropped to one out of five today. Still, 700,000 girls are given in marriage every year, which according to Dr. Shabaneh necessitates the empowerment of girls with the necessary information, skills and services they need to stay safe, healthy and educated as knowledge is indeed power.

The presentation then shifted its focus to humanitarian crises and the impact on women and their reproductive health and rights. Dr. Shabaneh showed another video featuring the suffering of Arab women after 2011, as part of an awareness-raising campaign. He stressed the fact that the region is home to some of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, and that an alarming number of 14.4 million women and girls of reproductive age are today in dire need of life-saving SRH services. What makes matters worse is that 2.3 million of those women are estimated to be pregnant, a number which calls for tremendous efforts to prioritize women's reproductive needs. He added that usually during war or after disasters, complications of childbirth are fatal, and thus called for a scaling up of investment in training midwives and saving mothers in difficult-to-reach areas.

Despite what has been said, one of the positive aspects is that the total fertility rate (TFR) among Arab women has dropped from around 4.5 in 1994 to around 3 today. According to Dr. Shabaneh, this is very promising since reduced fertility can lead to expanding the number of working-age youth compared to dependents, which is indeed an opportunity to achieve rapid economic growth. He stressed in this respect that economic growth can never be achieved unless young people are educated, empowered and employed in decent work. He also added that the vital necessity of all having access to health services, and the right of choice whether to have children, as well as when, and how many.

The last part of Dr. Shabaneh's presentation focused on celebrating the journey to the Nairobi Summit in November, with historic moments such as:

- 1968 Tehran Declaration: "Family planning as a basic right"
- 1969 UNFPA became a full-fledged UN entity
- 1994 the ICPD Programme of Action
- 1995 The Fourth World Conference on Women
- 2000 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- 2015 The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) era begins
- 2019 ICPD25, UNFPA50, and then the upcoming Nairobi Summit 2019.

He said that the Summit would bring together governments, the private sector, civil society and community partners to advance the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action at global, regional, national and local levels. This, according to him, calls for a plan to accelerate the ICPD Programme of Action by mobilizing political and financial support, encouraging partnerships, searching for new solutions, and lastly securing a consensus on how to achieve these goals.

As far as UNFPA is concerned, he stressed that UNFPA would continue to work diligently to fulfill the promises of the ICPD and to end maternal deaths, end unmet needs for family planning, and end violence against women and girls.

Discussion

Major points of discussion following the presentation:

- Parliamentarians should keep an eye on marginalized sections of the population.
- Parliamentarians should be well-informed and well-equipped to play an efficient role.
- Necessity to consider mechanisms for the continuity of parliamentary activities so that expertise is shared and transferred from one group or generation to another.
- Importance of adapting theoretical ideas to reality.
- Importance of working on challenges particular to each country (e.g. Syria and Lebanon).
- War is a major hindrance to addressing population issues.
- The necessity of thinking about ways to coordinate and prepare for the Nairobi Summit.
- The impossibility of formulating population policies in times of political instability.
- The effects of war are hard on neighboring countries.
- The need to work on SDG17 with regard to partnerships and ways to move from the international level to the national level, and then the local level.
- Parliamentarians' role and focus on practicality.

- Measures to eradicate violence against women.
- It is essential to think about different agendas for different countries, as well as the common agenda.
- Working towards reducing maternal mortality, Morocco has a good example to emulate.
- Ways to reach a category of women who suffer in silence.
- Ways to join forces to save what can be saved.
- Fundamentalism and extremism as obstacles and hindrances to population and development issues.
- Necessity to find a common legislative background to ensure rights.
- Necessity to focus on the causes of the ICPD's unfinished business.
- Tunisia has positive achievements concerning women.
- Population issues should be thought of as issues outside partisan consideration.
- The role of parliamentarians is not limited to legislation; an exclusive focus on laws is not sufficient.
- Change of human behavior in times of war.
- Opening the issue of taboos.
- Resolution of population issues 25 years ago in some countries, but not in others.
- It is important to involve men in resolving women's issues.
- Focus on preserving what is already achieved.
- Necessity to view the Nairobi Summit as an opportunity to launch a different discourse on population issues.
- Necessity to break concepts into parts, (e.g. The concept of abortion, whether it is abortion after pregnancy following rape, or just following normal marital or premarital pregnancy).



SESSION TWO: Population Dynamics, Population Policies and the SDGs

Session Chair: Hon. Wafa Bani Mustafa, MP Jordan

Investment in Youth

Hon. Sharif Rahimzoda, MP Tajikistan

Hon. Rahimzoda began his presentation by giving a brief overview of Tajikistan as well as some relevant demographic trends in Central Asia in general. He specified four characteristics of this region: 1) fairly high birth rates; 2) decrease in child and infant mortality rates; 3) young age of the population and the decline in the number of dependents; and 4) most Central Asian countries are early demographic dividend countries. A demographic dividend, he explained, occurs when the working-age population reaches maximum and has few dependents to support. It spurs more consumption, production and investment.

To highlight the demographic peculiarity of Tajikistan, Hon. Rahimzoda presented four graphs that respectively showed the annual population growth rate, the crude birth rate (births per 1,000 people), the proportion of the population age 0-24, and the child and youth (0-24 year old age group) dependency ratio, all of which were higher than the rest of Central Asian countries.

He then stated that Central Asia is a fast-growing region, but that by 2035-2040 the young population (aged 0-24) growth rates would slow down. Nevertheless, he said Tajikistan stands out in the following ways:

- In Central Asia, the share of the young population became less than 50% back in 2010, then in Tajikistan this share will drop to 50% only in 2035-2040.
- The working age population in Tajikistan will grow rapidly for many decades in the future.
- The first wave of the share of this group will begin in 2030-2035.
- However, a greater number of dependents will remain.

He supported his point by showing a graph that presented three different demographic dividend patterns, the world, Central Asia and Tajikistan. Hon. Rahimzoda explained what such a demographic window offers if exploited diligently and wisely; otherwise such a window could turn into a demographic threat. He identified such threats as:

1. High poverty rate: general poverty at 27.4% and extreme poverty at 11.8% (2018);
2. Lack of education: the average number of years of schooling is 9.6 (2015);
3. High unemployment rate: 46% of all unemployed accounts for youth of aged 15-29 (2018).

To counter these threats, he said that the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan is undertaking three key actions: 1) creating effective institutional frameworks; 2) developing and adopting strategic, programmatic and legislative documents; and 3) funding current youth programmes. He went on to elaborate on each key action.

Concerning the creation of effective institutional frameworks, he specified four such institutions:

- Committee on Youth and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Youth Policy of the Lower Chamber of the Parliament of Tajikistan
- Department of Education and Science of the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan
- National Council for Youth under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan (2015)

Concerning the development and adoption of strategic, programmatic and legislative documents, he specified a number of legal acts in the area of youth policy such as:

- National Development Strategy 2030
- Youth and State Youth Policy Law
- Volunteering Activity Law
- National Concept of Youth Policy
- The State Youth Policy 2020
- National Youth Program (five stages, 1999-2012)
- State Program of Youth Patriotic Education (two stages, 2006-2013)
- Youth Health Development Program (two stages, 2006-2013)
- National Program for Social Development of Youth (two stages, 2013-present).

As for the funding current youth programmes, he talked about investment in youth programmes, and mentioned five priorities:

1. Effective employment (empowerment of youth and its competitiveness in the labor market; coordination of the work of government bodies with organizations in the area of youth employment, especially regarding orphans, people with disabilities, people released from prisons, and people who have left military service; creating conditions for regulating youth labor migration; and the creation of new ways of providing youth with jobs using information technology and various methods of organizing the market).
2. Healthy lifestyle (conducting awareness-raising campaigns among youth; creating groups for the prevention of infectious diseases; developing a peer-to-peer training programme on the formation of a healthy lifestyle).
3. Access to education (providing modern, high-quality and competitive education for youth; promoting youth education through the formation of an informal education service; and the use of the latest methods for distance education, such as interactive learning).
4. Social security for vulnerable groups (a system for collecting and storing data on youth, including young people from vulnerable groups; organizing regular monitoring of their life; facilitating access for girls, the homeless and the poor to adequate education; and giving training in vital skills and modern technologies, including for vulnerable groups)
5. Economic independence (assistance in improving the economic situation for youth; assistance in increasing the income level of youth and young families through entrepreneurial activity; establishing benefits for entrepreneurs, especially for those who migrate for work; creating small and medium-sized enterprises for youth; raising the level of economic education for youth; implementing various entrepreneurial

programmes; providing professional education and training of personnel and young leaders, and so forth).

He then gave an example of the budget of the National Program for Social Development of Youth for 2019-2021, which equals 10.9 million somoni (more than US\$1 million), 80% of which comes from the government budget and 20% from other sources (donors, civil society and the private sector), but also stated that there is a great need to increase funding for youth from all sources.

Women's Empowerment, Gender Equality and Universal Access to SRH

Hon. Hector Appuhamy, MP Sri Lanka

Hon. Hector Appuhamy began his presentation by giving an overview of Sri Lanka:

- Population - 20,263,723
- Population density - 346 persons per sq. km
- Growth rate of population - 1.0%
- Dependency Ratio - 49.4%
- Unemployment rate - 4.4%
- Female Population - 11.0 million
- Male Population - 9.7 million
- Number of Households - 5.4 million
- Percentage of female-headed households -25.8%

He explained further the graphs by stating that women represent 57% of a total estimated population, and also represent 33.4% of the active population which can translated as 8.5 million women.

He also presented the status of women in the Constitution of Sri Lanka which states that:

- Women are equal citizens entitled to all the privileges that men can avail themselves of.
- All persons are equal before the law and are entitled to the equal protection of the law (Article 12)
- No citizen shall be discriminated against on the grounds of race, religion, language, caste, sex, political opinion, place of birth or any such grounds.

As his first main topic, Hon. Appuhamy stressed the need for women's empowerment as a necessity for building good and strong societies and for achieving genuine development. He cited Kofi Annan, 7th UN Secretary General, who said that "Empowering women is key to building a future we want" and America's 44th President Barack Obama who said "There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women".

Hon. Appuhamy then explained the Women's Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (WCIC), which was initiated in 1985 with an objective of incorporating women entrepreneurs into the mainstream of business activity in the country. According to Hon. Appuhamy, the WCIC places priority on harnessing the economic power and recognition of its members and improving their lives, while stimulating socio-economic growth. He mentioned some of its

projects, such as the Agro-mart Foundation, Poverty Alleviation Through Entrepreneurship Development, the SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneur Council, the South Asian Women's Economic Network, Women's Entrepreneur Awards, and so forth.

He admitted, however, that despite such efforts, there are barriers to women's empowerment:

- Limited job opportunities for rural women; no flexibility of work for urban women.
- Rural women lack physical access to markets; all women need better negotiating skills.
- Both rural and urban women lack financial literacy.
- Rural women lack access to training opportunities, urban women lack knowledge of training opportunities.

Then Hon. Appuhamy moved to the 2nd main topic in his presentation viz. universal access to SRH services and maintained that universal access to SRHR encompasses access to the following information and services: 1) everyone can make informed choices about sexuality and reproduction and have a safe and satisfying sexual life, free from violence and coercion; 2) all women can experience pregnancy and childbirth safely, couples have the best chance of having an infant, and women can avoid unwanted pregnancy; 3) everyone has access to prevention, treatment and care for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV; 4) all women and men can access high quality SRH services that cater to their needs; and 5) the rights and needs of people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) are recognized and appropriate SRHR information and services are made available.

He then presented the country profile in the area of SRHR:

- The median age at first marriage has declined from around 25 years to 23.3 years.
- Total Fertility Rate has increased from 2.1 to 2.13.
- Sri Lanka's Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) stands at 32.5 for every 100,000 live births as recorded by the Family Health Bureau (FHB).
- Data from 2013 indicates that 99.9% of all births were institutional deliveries and only 0.1% of all deliveries were conducted by untrained personnel.
- Sri Lanka is classified as a country in the South Asian region with a low prevalence of HIV/AIDS with an estimated 2000 to 3000 people infected with HIV and an estimated prevalence rate of less than 0.1% adults as at 2014.
- Sri Lanka has signed and ratified many international conventions that attempt to address the empowerment of women, combat gender-based violence, improve the health and wellbeing of women and girls, and ensure gender equality.
- Sri Lanka has addressed sexual and reproductive rights through several policies.
- Gender-based violence is addressed through various legislative acts, policies and programmes, while HIV/AIDS is addressed through policies that address non-discriminatory practices in the workplace.
- Comprehensive sexuality education for adolescents and youth is a priority area that needs attention.

As for the availability of SRH services, he stated that the Ministry of Health is responsible for almost all public service provisions. The responsibility for lower level health services was devolved to eight provincial councils, which are responsible for the management of national facilities, medical education, formulation of the health policy, and the bulk purchase of drugs and medical supplies. Concerning institutional services for pregnant women, he said that there were 603 hospitals throughout the country that have maternity wards.

Sri Lanka, he said, has made considerable advancements in the promotion of women's empowerment, gender equality and health services. However, there are some areas that must be improved. Especially, the health policies that are currently in place need to be strengthened through the development of inclusive SRH policies. These policies should ensure the availability of services without discrimination on the grounds of sex, gender, age, race, marital status and other factors. He also added that policies need to be implemented to address the allocation of sufficient human and financial resources to implement and monitor current health policies.

Ageing and Balanced fertility toward SDGs and finishing ICPD unfinished business

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

Dr. Kusumoto began his presentation by giving an overview of the global environment and population stating that the planetary ecosystem is something finite, and so with population growth and the increase in living standards, the impact of human society on the environment is beyond what nature can absorb. The 2030 Agenda and its SDGs that were adopted in 2015 warn that the survival of many societies of the planet is at risk.

He maintained that without stabilizing the population, sustainable development cannot be achieved and that population is only stabilized through a process called demographic transition, which he defined as shifting from a high birth rate and a high death rate to a high birth rate and a low death rate, and then to a low birth rate and a low death rate. Furthermore, the demographic transition according to him consists of two processes: mortality transition and fertility transition. However, the mortality transition proceeds faster than the fertility transition, as the mortality rate can be improved by science, technology and appropriate medical services, while the fertility transition process is more complicated. Since fertility is a result of the choices and actions of people, the fertility transition requires changes of action, which in turn, require changes in social values.

He went on to explain that if mortality rates decline, a decline in fertility naturally follows resulting in having a certain age group in the population grow to be a large proportion of the overall population. Such a lump is called a cohort and is characterized as a baby boom, a youth bulge or population dividend, and finally as an ageing society. He stated that the diverse aspects and differences we currently see in the population of each region of the world are a matter of differences in the progress of this demographic transition and the age group of the cohort.

He took the Arab region as an example, which has the largest youth cohort. By providing youth with adequate education and employment opportunities, countries in this region could benefit greatly from the demographic dividend. However, he warned that after 40 years of demographic dividend, the cohort will age. This is unavoidable if a country strives to achieve

sustainable development, and in the case that countries do not take proper measures to prepare for the population ageing, they are likely to face more dire challenges.

After thus exposing the issue, Dr. Kusumoto talked about the possible countermeasures for an ageing society. He stated that Japan, the country with the highest ageing rate in the world, is working on this issue, and one of the measures is that people who are able and willing to work are encouraged to do so regardless of age and conditions. This way, elderly people will be a driving force for development and revitalization of society. This will create opportunities to improve the health of the elderly while promoting their social participation. However, he believes that widely implementing such an approach requires changing the social system and the way we use technology.

As a case in point, he said that the Japanese government formulated a policy called *Promotion of Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens*. The problem of elder workers not being able to undertake as much physical and manual labor as young people do can be resolved through the use of AI and robot technology. Nowadays even fields that were typically considered to be labor-intensive, such as nursing care, are shifting to the use of AI and robots. This, according to him, may create a business opportunity.

The last point Dr. Kusumoto dealt with was ageing, sustainable development, fertility, and reproductive rights. In this respect, he said that the population is society itself. And in order to achieve fertility transition, efforts need to be made to realize the reproductive rights (RR) defined in ICPD Programme of Action, where reducing unwanted pregnancies through universal access to RH will lead to the realization of RR. He also added that the same RR problem exists in developed countries facing a falling birthrate, and gave Japan as an example where the current TFR is 1.42 (2019), which is not enough to maintain the society. He said that the Japanese government set the goal of achieving a TFR of 1.8, which is deemed by experts as impossible, and even if it is achieved, the population will continue to decrease.

Dr. Kusumoto went on to state that although the decline in population is not a problem in terms of environmental impact, it will lead to rapid ageing and it will take away the time for society to respond to changes in its demographic structure. Health improvement of the elderly has extended Japan's life expectancy, and so has the extremely low birthrate. According to him, the latter is more important. He stressed that a birth rate that is too high or too low is a major obstacle to sustainable development.

He suggests that it is fundamentally important to achieve an appropriate (balanced) fertility rate and achieve the "third demographic transition" through fulfilling the RR by implementing appropriate social and economic policies. The ICPD Programme of Action refers to RR saying that "These rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so... (7.3)".

From that perspective, it is an important part of RR that there is universal access to RH that prevents unwanted pregnancy and that couples who want children can do so, knowing that there is a hopeful future where children can get appropriate education and investment. He stated that there is no future without children. Dr. Kusumoto concluded his presentation by urging parliamentarians to fulfill their roles in promoting awareness that achieving an appropriate fertility rate is the realization of couples' hopes and the basis of social well-being, since this will be a fundamental countermeasure for an ageing society and the most important foundation for sustainable development.

Discussion

Major points of discussion following the presentations:

- Necessity of investing positively in youth.
- Necessity of achieving a balance between fertility and ageing.
- Problem of the gender pay gap. Women get paid less than men.
- Need to implement decisions made in parliamentary meetings concerning the empowerment of women.
- Need to involve the youth in decision-making processes as they are major players in demonstrations and protests.
- Economic empowerment of the youth leads to their political empowerment.
- Similarity between the Sri Lankan experience and Moroccan experience so far as women are concerned.
- Considering ways to achieve balance between family life and political life so far as women are concerned.
- Consideration of how rural women are less privileged than city women.
- Investing in youth is investing in the future.
- Considering ways to invest in old people and benefit from their expertise.
- Consideration of the strategy of Japan where there is a problem of too many retired people, social insurance, etc.
- The tendency towards birth control should take account of the age structure.
- The problem of retirement and pension funds (there should be a funding generation).
- Importance of old-age insurance.



SESSION THREE: Women's Empowerment, Gender Equality and Universal Access to SRH

Session Chair: Hon. Viplove Thakur, MP India, Vice-Chair of IAPPD

Hon. Dr. Sahar Qawasmi, MP Palestine

After defining the gender gap as the difference between women and men as reflected in social, political, intellectual, cultural, or economic attainments or attitudes, Hon. Dr. Qawasmi then stated that the Arab region has the lowest participation of women in political life. At only 15% female representation in parliament, the region is far behind the global average of 22.1%. As for social and economic participation, she cited World Bank data which shows that the representation of Arab women in the labor market does not exceed 27%.

Hon. Dr. Qawasmi mentioned that when women are not integrated into society as both beneficiaries and shapers, the global community loses out on skills, ideas and perspectives that are critical for addressing global challenges and harnessing new opportunities. She believes that building future economies that are both dynamic and inclusive requires equal opportunity for everyone.

She then showed a graph that indicates gender parity by region for 2017 where western Europe ranks the highest (76%), followed by North America (72%), while the Middle East and North Africa rank the lowest.

She maintained that it remains imperative for Arab countries to enforce fiscal and social policies and to enact labor and social protection laws that provide adequate support in particular for working women and mothers, including child support or maternity leave entitlements, especially in the private sector.

Hon. Dr. Qawasmi commented that the period 2015-2016 marked a watershed for SRHR with the adoption of several far-reaching international agreements in support of universal access to SRH. As a matter of fact, in September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs were formally adopted by world leaders at the historic UN Summit, and these came officially into force on 1 January 2016.

Hon. Dr. Qawasmi then stated that family planning is one of the most effective and cost-effective public health interventions and that its use is increasing worldwide but remains very uneven across regions. Moreover, improving access to contraception could decrease maternal mortality by a third worldwide.

In addition, she mentioned that abortion-related death accounts for 7.9% of all maternal deaths and an alarming number of 25 million unsafe abortions take place each year worldwide. This is nearly half of the abortions worldwide.

Concerning sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and cervical cancer, she said that there are an estimated 357 million new cases of four curable STIs every year among people aged 14-49.

Concerning fertility care, she stressed that it is the choice of each individual and couple to determine if, how many, when, and with whom to have children. However, between 48-186 million couples of reproductive age cannot realize their right to reproduction due to fertility issues. She added that in this respect that infertility has long been neglected as a public health

problem, and only recently gained some importance as a consequence of concerns over exposure to pollution and environmental disasters.

The last point Hon. Dr. Qawasmi raised was violence against women and girls. In this respect she said that violence against women – particularly intimate partner violence and sexual violence – are major public health problems, as well as violations of women’s human rights. WHO estimated that, worldwide, about one in every three women has experienced either physical or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in her lifetime. She also said that a quarter of all children experience physical violence, and 20% of girls and 7% of boys are affected by sexual abuse. Most of this violence is hidden, stigmatized and largely unrecognized, although it has profound effects on women’s and girls’ physical, mental, SRH and may increase vulnerability to HIV.

Hon. Loubna Amhair, Engineer, Former Member of the Moroccan Parliament

Ms. Amhair’s presentation focused on gender equality and the empowerment of women. She said that the world has undergone far-reaching changes over the past two decades and that significant progress in many fields that are important for human welfare has been made through national and international efforts. She also believes that the next phase of gender equality will be an era that promotes better balance in terms of lifestyles, policies, and investment, but that such a shift in emphasis has to start now. However, she admits that many countries are still facing serious difficulties such as hunger, poverty and inequalities.

Afterwards she dealt with the question of gender quality in a detailed manner, showing first the crucial connection between gender equality and the acceleration of sustainable development. Equality can take place only through ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls, which is not only a basic human right, but it also has a multiplier effect across all other development areas.

She pointed out some of the outstanding aspects of inequality, such as inequalities in access to paid employment in some regions, and the significant gaps between men and women in the labor market. Sexual violence and exploitation, unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work, and discrimination in public decision making, all remain huge barriers.

To achieve equality and empowerment for women, Ms. Amhair suggested gender strategies which are crucial for development:

- Definition of gender-based objectives
- Adoption of legal gender framework
- Adoption of institutional mechanisms
- Implementation of minimum standard
- Implementation of gender sensitive approaches
- Building partnerships with CSOs and the private sector.

Starting with the definition of gender-based objectives, she said that it is vital for any national strategy to establish a safe environment for women and men that enables them to contribute to and enjoy the benefits of sustainable development and peace. She added that gender equality should become a constituent element of any national global agenda and that gender specific targets and timelines should be identified within the framework of inclusive, quality, and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Concerning gender equality laws, she said that legal equality for women is a precondition for a range of critical priorities, from economic development, health, education, to peace and stability, and to achieve this vision, every nation must do more to ensure that women are equal to men under the law. She added that temporary special measures (TSMs) are an important means for accelerating the participation of women and men in decision-making.

She went on to say that recognition of sexual harassment as a crime, and reforms of the codes on rape and sexual violence in wartime were major achievements for women in the latter half of the 20th century. She also said that closing the enforcement gap in gender equality laws is often called the “unfinished business of the 21st century”.

Ms. Amhair proceeded to give some examples of gender equality laws such as electoral laws, inheritance rights and access to property, criminalizing violence against women, Reform of Child Marriage laws, abortion laws, and ensuring equality under the law regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

She then mentioned some institutional mechanisms to achieve equality and empowerment for women, and focused mainly on the necessity of moving from legal equality to real equality, including the mainstreaming of gender equality at the level of policy and practice, the creation of a Gender Equality Commission/Unit/ Network of national focal points, and the establishment of a National Agency with a specific mandate on equality issues. She explained that the strategy of Gender Mainstreaming does not in any way preclude the need for specific targeted interventions to address women’s empowerment and gender equality, and that a Dual Strategy is needed of Gender mainstreaming with complementary measures to address specific gaps or problems.

She also specified some effective approaches such as integrating a gender perspective into programmes and activities; requiring different government departments to adopt a transversal approach to gender equality and gender policy measures; and introducing specific methods and structures to effectively implement gender mainstreaming, including gender budgeting, gender impact assessment, and so forth.

As for the empowerment for women, Ms. Amhair specified three major areas: 1) Economic Empowerment (access to resources, income generating activities, access to services and outcomes); 2) Decision making and Representation (household, professional organizations, community); 3) Media and Image (non-stereotyped image of women, technologies and science, TV shows, talks and debates).

She also specified five key areas of action in this respect, which are: 1) Increasing female labor-market participation and equal economic independence for women and men; thus reducing the gender pay, earnings and pension gaps and fighting poverty among women; 2) Promoting access to information, social protection, health and security; 3) Promoting equality between women and men in decision-making; 4) Combating gender-based violence and protecting and supporting victims; 5) Promoting gender equality and women’s rights and access to resources.

Twenty-five years since the ICPD, too many people are still being left behind and many nations have not been able to fully reap the demographic dividend. She also stated that the ICPD is about specific steps that must be taken to ensure that SRHR, gender equality and the empowerment of women, and suggested that national action plans, more legislative/non-legislative initiatives, funding measures and instruments, and increased accountability mechanisms are needed.

Some of her recommendations in this respect are:

- Supporting dedicated gender-equality programming;
- Adopting standards for joint gender programmes;
- Strengthening accountability for gender-equality; and 4) Partnering with CSOs and grassroots organizations.

Ms. Amhair concluded her presentation by saying that equality is not only a right, but it is also economically beneficial for a developing world by setting an example for the next generation of policymakers, of innovators, and of citizens; that prosperity in the future will be linked to equal opportunities to all, as no one should be left behind; and that we need more governmental strategies to combat discrimination, violence and inequality.

Hon. Sana Mersni, MP Tunisia

Hon. Mersni first gave an overview of the Tunisian approach to women's issues and said that Tunisia was a leading Arab and Muslim country in term of attending to women's rights and involving them in various sectors. The Tunisian personal law issued on 13 August 1956 was very effective in revolutionizing the Arab and Islamic world on women's rights as it contained progressive and liberating provisions in this field.

She added that feminist movements and actual political activism began in Tunisia as early as 1929. Women gained the right to vote and to stand for election in 1959.

She then talked about women's political participation and involvement in society after the January revolution in 2011 and referred to Decree 35 issued in 2011, in particular chapter 24, which enshrines the principle of equal treatment. She also touched on the 2014 constitution, especially chapters 34 and 46, as well as the 2014 elections in which 72 women were elected (33% of the total representative number).

As a case in point, she cited the February 2017 Electoral Law, chapter 49:9 in which the principle of equal horizontal and vertical treatment was adopted. As examples she gave some significant statistics:

- Percentage of women candidates: 46.26%
- Women at the head of candidate lists: 49.46%
- Women winners in elections: 47% (Elections of 6 May 2018)

Hon. Mersni gave more examples of provisions for women in the Local Communities' Law as follows:

- CHAPTER 7: President and First Assistant from different genders.
- CHAPTER 49: concerning the Supreme Council of Local Communities, the two Vice-Presidents are elected on the basis gender equal treatment.
- CHAPTERS 210 and 308: a permanent committee charged with observing equal treatment and equal gender opportunity.
- CHAPTER 210: the composition of committees respects the principle of equal treatment.

On the same note, she then moved to cite constitutional principles and important laws to achieve the above. These are:

- CHAPTER 46 of the Constitution: equal treatment and equal opportunities
- CHAPTER 21 of the Constitution: gender equality
- CHAPTER 34: ensuring the representation of women in elected councils
- The Basic Law on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence and Discrimination against Women (11 August 2017) (Criminalization of Political Violence)
- The Creation of the Peer Council for Equality and Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, 2016
- The creation of the Committee on Individual Rights and Equality

She then said that indeed there were some important provisions such as that for the first time since 1858, it became possible for a woman to become the head of a municipality. However, of the 24 municipalities in the nation, only three have female mayors (Tunis, Nabeul and Mahdia). She also raised the problem of gender disparities concerning economic and social integration, especially for rural women, and suggested increasing their employment rate from 28% to 35%.

Other points she mentioned in this respect are: early school dropout rates and illiteracy among women, the integration of the gender approach into public policies, changing party laws, amending the electoral law towards the adoption of equal treatment regardless of gender, both horizontally and vertically, and lastly the presence of women in high State positions.

Hon. Mersni concluded her presentation by talking about SRH with the focus of five points:

- Maternal health and safe delivery
- Prenatal services
- Family planning
- Safe abortion
- SRH for young people

Discussion

Major points of discussion following the presentations:

- Necessity of not only issuing laws but also following up on the implementation of them.
- Necessity of oversight of governments in implementing laws.
- Criminalization of political violence against women.
- Consideration of not only national particularities but also local ones.
- Success of the women's experience in Egypt: Representation of women in parliament is 25%. Enhancing efficiency and performance.
- Success in Morocco concerning the right of women to inherit their families' communal land (Sulala land). (The Moroccan customary law which applied to communal land decreed that women could not possess lands and that land passes only from father to son.)

- Tunisia as a source of inspiration in the Arab world concerning gender equality.
- Consideration of adolescent sexual health.
- The importance of education in resolving the thorny issue of sex in the Arab world.
- Necessity of providing implementation laws and tools.
- Lack of a strategy in dealing with the sexual problems of the youth due to a lack of recognition of those problems as they are hidden behind procedures.
- Necessity of sticking to political principles and getting rid of moody attitudes in resolving issues.
- Parliamentarians should play a supervisory role in evaluation and studies.
- Necessity of joining efforts in preparation for the Nairobi Summit.



SESSION FOUR: Panel Discussion “Parliamentarians’ Roles in Addressing the ICPD Unfinished Agenda”

Moderator: Dr. Abdullah Abdel Aziz, Regional Advisor of UNFPA Arab States Regional Office

Hon. Ahed Al-Kinj, MP Syria

Hon. Al-Kinj introduced his presentation by saying that the People’s Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic, in cooperation with the Syrian Commission for Family and Population Affairs (SCFA) and UNFPA, over many years held several workshops and seminars reviewing the recommendations of the ICPD.

He explained that since the beginning of the millennium, Syria has had a major shift in its approach towards economic and demographic issues due to the creation of the SCFA, and that recommendations of the ICPD have been included in the government agenda. UNFPA issued the first report on the situation of the population in Syria in 2008 and its second report in 2010. Many population policies were adopted but the implementation of these policies has been hindered because of the war in Syria.

He said that now development gaps should be filled so as to at least return to the level of development before the war, with a focus on sustainable development and on ICPD recommendations concerning population issues. He also talked about continued cooperation with UNFPA, which provides various forms of financial support and a means of rehabilitation for those who are returning to the country.

As an example of the importance of partnership between members of the People’s Assembly and other relevant institutions, he reported on how legislation has developed, especially the Personal Status Law, which raised the age of marriage so as to ensure the rights of girls to education and work, as well as the right to choose the number of children and the spacing of births. Efforts are underway to ensure gender equality on economic and social levels.

He then said that the war on Syria and the unilateral coercive measures have had an immensely impact on the Syrian population and he highlighted a number of challenges, the most important of which are:

- Population displacement: there are ongoing efforts to prevent it from becoming permanent, which can affect population demographics.
- A large number of residents have lost their permanent homes, jobs, sources of incomes and face difficulty in accessing free public services such as education, health and others. This situation has forced many young people to migrate or become refugees.
- Declines in education, health, and opportunities for labor due to the war on Syria and unilateral coercive measures have gravely affected the development of infrastructure in recent decades.

Hon. Al-Kinj said that the government had to work hard on several levels to meet the above challenges:

- Poverty Reduction: as during the war, the proportion of the population living in poverty increased for several reasons (terrorist acts, loss of sources of income, depletion of savings and assets, unilateral coercive measures, an economic downturn

and exchange rate fluctuations, high food and fuel prices). Several effective policies were adopted by state institutions to reduce poverty (such as providing food and health care, providing free education, providing free health services and mobile RH services, subsidizing the prices of bread, petroleum products, electricity and water; promoting a legislative environment to facilitate the financing of microenterprises, the care and integration of women and children, victims of violence and human trafficking, and other procedures).

- Health: the protection of the health of Syrian citizens is a right guaranteed by the state according to the constitution as article 88 states that the state has responsibility for every citizen and their families in cases of emergency, sickness, becoming orphaned, and old age. The state also protects the health of citizens and provides them with measures of prevention, treatment and medication.
- Good Governance: In the year 2003, SCFA was established and in the year 2014 it was assigned responsibility for the management of population programmes.

Hon. Al-Kinj then talked about lessons learned from the Syrian experience. In this respect he said that Syria needs to adopt population policies that take into account the specificity of each Syrian governorate. This can be done in alignment with the UNFPA policies, he said, with cooperation and coordination between the relevant governmental, official and non-governmental bodies and.

He then concluded his presentation by stating that the People's Assembly has enacted, proposed and amended laws that support the implementation of population plans and programmes in order to achieve harmony between population and economic development. Members of the People's Assembly have participated actively in regional and international parliamentary conferences and fora to gain international support for Syria's issues. His recommendations are:

- Lifting of unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Syrian people and requesting support from fellow parliamentarians in this regard.
- Ensuring that international organizations fulfill their financial and technical obligations.
- Stressing that international organizations focus their efforts on supporting development and capacity building in Syria.
- Being a spokesperson for Syria in their own countries by reporting what is happening in the world and in Syria in particular.

Hon. Amara Alsir, MP Sudan

Hon. Alsir began her presentation by referring to the ICPD in 1994 as one of the most important international conferences, which brought about a radical change in countries' approach to population and development issues. She added that on 1 April 2019, during the 52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development, UN Member States adopted a declaration reaffirming the importance of the ICPD Programme of Action in steering population and development policies and programmes. They also pledged undertaking further measures to ensure the full and urgent implementation of those policies and programmes.

Hon. Alsir then presented the progress over the past 25 years as follows:

- Reduced preventable maternal mortality worldwide: 40%
- Reduction in birth rates among adolescents worldwide: 32%
- Increase in the rate of use and spreading of family planning methods: 25%
- Female genital mutilation has fallen by more than a third in 24 countries
- The percentage of female students in secondary education increased from 83% in 1994 to 91%.
- The percentage of women parliamentarians increased from 11.6% in 1997 to 24%.
- Most children in the world have access to primary education.

Despite this progress, she said, there is still a long way to go in some areas:

- An estimated 830 women die in childbirth every day, many of whom are between 15 and 19 years old.
- Every single day, some 33,000 girls get married before they turn 18.
- More than 200 million women do not have access to modern family planning methods.
- Each year, more than three million girls undergo female genital mutilation.
- More than one million people aged 10 to 19 live with HIV and about one out of seven new cases occur during adolescence.
- An estimated one third of all women have experienced sexual and gender-based violence in their lives.
- An estimated 132 million girls worldwide are still not in school.

Stressing the role of parliamentarians in the implementation of the ICPD agenda, she specified five points relating to the unfinished business of the ICPD:

1. Health and universal access to SRHR and the issue of overall health coverage
2. Creating a momentum for funding
3. Democracy and Sustainable Development
4. Gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls
5. SRHR in fragile humanitarian contexts

She also called for urgent action in the following five areas, necessary for addressing of the abovementioned points:

1. Women's empowerment and gender equality
2. Youth participation
3. Political and community leadership
4. Innovation
5. Strategic partnerships and South-South cooperation

She also stated that in her view the greatest success of parliamentarians comes from their ability to disseminate the concept of population issues and to integrate these issues into development policies, since many decision-makers, planners and legislators tend to perceive population issues as problems that are separate from other challenges.

Hon. Alsir then concluded her presentation by suggesting the following recommendations to her fellow parliamentarians:

1. Parliamentarians should be updated about what is happening around them; the governments and CSOs should give parliamentarians access to general data, population data, and documents that facilitate decision-making.
2. Strengthening the partnership between National Population Councils and Committees, on one hand, and Parliamentarians, on the other, to promote population and development work.
3. Following-up of parliamentarians on population issues and putting in place the best mechanisms to meet major challenges.
4. Launching in-depth discussions among parliamentarians on relevant issues in light of conflicts, disputes, and human insecurity and war.
5. Requesting technical support, building national capacities, and intensifying active participation, visits and communication, so as to facilitate exchange information and learn more about experiences and practices relating to population and development issues.
6. Benefiting from the demographic dividend by investing in youth and empowering women.
7. Enhancing cooperation, support and solidarity among the parliaments of those countries most affected by large waves of refugees and migrants.
8. Strengthening political support for population issues through parties represented by the attending parliamentarians.
9. Highlighting the role of parliamentarians in investigating, questioning and supervising the implementation of their countries' commitments to population and development issues.

Hon. Fatema Abbas, MP Bahrain

Hon. Abbas began her presentation by thanking the organizers and supporters of this parliamentarians' meeting, namely the House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco, APDA, FAPPD, UNFPA, JPFP and JTF.

She then gave a descriptive overview of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 SDGs to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and establish sustainable means of economic development in all countries.

On the same note, she gave an overview of the ICPD in 1994, stating that it adopted the Programme of Action that enshrined the individual's reproductive health as a basic human right and that it shifted the focus from demography to human life. It also marked the commitment of world leaders to the goals of ensuring universal access to RH services and information, as well as reducing maternal mortality and terminating gender-based violence. The ICPD also stressed the empowerment of women as a precondition for sustainable

development and called on governments to invest in youth, eradicate poverty, and to protect migrants and displaced people.

She specified some of the ICPD achievements as improvements in many fields, namely the reduction of poverty, the improvement of the health sector, the support of education, and the enhancement of gender equality.

However, she said that to this day, there are still many interconnected challenges which represent an obstacle to achieving the ICPD's Programme of Action. Those challenges show up in the inability to implement the SDGs in some of the world's most vulnerable and hardest-hit areas.

Some of the challenges she specified were:

1. Armed conflicts and strife in many regions.
2. Crises of refugees and the millions of displaced people in the world, in particular women and children, who together represent nearly 80% of the displaced population.
3. Financial crisis affecting most countries in the world, which has led to a shrinking of budgets devoted to development projects and a reduction in aid, grants and donations for vulnerable groups.
4. The rise of terrorism in its most extreme and brutal forms, which has had unprecedented negative effects on global development.
5. The hundreds of millions of people in the world who still live in extreme poverty. As currently there is a lack of statistics and information regarding this, an accurate database is required to assess and remedy the situation.
6. With regard to gender equality, women in some regions continue to suffer from societal views that degrade women and place them within social cages they cannot easily escape.

Hon. Abbas then moved to talk about the role of parliamentarians in finishing the unfinished business of the ICPD, stating that National parliaments allow them to play important roles in achieving the ICPD and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Those roles, according to her, can be the following:

- Adopting and enacting national laws that are compatible with the SDGs, and continuously reviewing the current laws to ensure that they are in line with efforts deployed in development.
- Pushing a legislative focus on global developmental issues that still need addressing and whose resolution would serve the most vulnerable social groups, such as women, children, the elderly, migrants and refugees.
- Ensuring that development plans and goals are incorporated into government programmes of action, or government action plans, while taking into account the particularities of each country.
- Ensuring financial commitment when approving state budgets so that requirements of the development goals are adequately and fairly met.
- Parliamentarians have the power to question policies and procedures, which enables them to hold governments accountable, and to request information on the

implementation of development plans so that they can review and offer amendments to these plans.

- Emphasizing on the importance of the overall aspect of development.
- Exercising the supervisory competencies on the performance of the government, and on the progress of the implementation of development plans, and taking into account the proper application of laws and legislation after approval.
- Maintaining a continuous focus on key development issues, which require efforts to achieve change and win support for those issues in regional and international parliamentary forums.
- Opening channels of communication between parliamentarians to exchange information, experiences and best practices related to the implementation of the development goals.
- Opening channels of communication between parliaments and civil society organizations (CSOs), as the latter have the ability to reach large segments of the population and to integrate easily into communities.
- Opening channels of communication between parliaments and international organizations, to keep abreast of urgent and necessary humanitarian needs that require actions on the part of parliamentarians.

Hon. Fatema Abbas concluded her presentation by stating that Bahrain has taken many initiatives to achieve the SDGs, by always observing strictly the alignment of its development plans and programmes with the SDGs. Bahrain was one of the first countries to successfully achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2000, achieving those Goals in 2015.

Regarding the vision of Bahrain launched in 2008, she said that it is referred to as the National Economic Vision 2030 and has been developed in line with the aspirations of the people in Bahrain on the basis of three key principles: sustainability, justice and competitiveness.

Hon. Ermalena Hasbullah, MP Indonesia

Hon. Hasbullah started her panel presentation by explaining that the Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IFPPD), which was established on 22 October 2001 based on the decree letter of the speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives No. 16/ PIMP/ 1/2001- 2002 and has objectives for supporting a better quality of life for the Indonesian people and implementing the Indonesian commitment to the ICPD agenda. The inauguration of the IFPPD was officially done in May 2002 by Mr. Akbar Tanjung, Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives (1999-2004).

She specified two main reasons behind the establishment of the IFPPD. The first was from an internal point of view, as parliamentarians were concerned about population issues in relation to sustainable development, a challenge in terms of creating a higher standard of living for people. The other reason was from an external point of view as Indonesia had agreed to the ICPD and MDGs and that it was the responsibility of parliamentarians to bring into reality what they had agreed upon internationally.

IFPPD's vision, Hon. Hasbullah said, was to accelerate the creation of a better quality of life for the Indonesian people through sustainable development, while its mission consists of five points:

1. Strengthening and facilitating the role of parliamentarians in implementing the parliament's legislation, budget allocation, and control and monitoring, to achieve a better quality of life for the Indonesian people through sustainable development.
2. Accommodating public aspirations in order to support the establishment of a better quality of life for Indonesians through sustainable development.
3. Building partnerships through networking with potential institutions and implementing designated programmes of the forum
4. Facilitating good relationships among national, provincial and district parliaments.
5. Establishing good relationships with other countries' forums of parliamentarians on population and development.

Hon. Hasbullah then specified five distinct IFPPD activities: advocacy, networking, capacity building, technical assistance, and research. She then moved to the achievements of IFPPD and stated that it facilitated the enactment of law 23/2004 on domestic violence in 2002-2004, the amendment of the law on population in 2003-2009 to strengthen access to Reproductive Rights and RH services, and the amendment of the law on health in 2003-2009. Furthermore, it strengthened the regulations and commitments for the prevention and elimination of HIV/AIDS in 2004-2009. It also worked on the advocacy for ratification of framework on convention of tobacco control including drafting the bill on tobacco control in 2005-2008.

Regarding the IFPPD plan of action, she said that it consists of: 1) developing thematic groups of experts and retired legislators on specific areas such as population, gender equality, RH, etc. based on the needs; 2) strengthening the secretariat operational functions; and 3) engaging with potential donors to support IFPPD activities.

Hon. Hasbullah concluded her panel presentation by mentioning the IFPPD priority issues:

- Reducing the high mortality rate
- Strengthening access to and services of family planning
- Achieving the demographic dividend through strengthening the knowledge of young people on RH; strengthening policies for the elderly population; raising the marriage age through amending the law of marriage 1974; and ensuring the access of young couples to family planning methods.
- Other health issues including the elimination of HIV/AIDS and tobacco control.

Hon. Yoshinori Suematsu, MP Japan

Hon. Suematsu began his presentation with a comparison of the state of affairs before and after the ICPD. In this respect, he stated that before the ICPD, population issues used to be treated as a mere matter of statistical targets, regardless of the will of people in each society, while after the ICPD the handling of population issues took a paradigm shift, for such issues

became the most important variables for achieving the SDGs. According to Hon. Suematsu, these issues should be addressed through voluntary decision-making and through well-informed choice of people in each society.

He also talked about the importance of this parliamentary meeting as it was expected to make a major contribution to the Nairobi Summit in November. He said that in this context he would like to emphasize four major points:

1. The ICPD and SDGs share the same purposes, as have been clarified, and that without finishing the unfinished business of the ICPD's Programme of Action it is not possible to achieve the SDGs;
2. The concept of reproductive rights was clearly defined in the ICPD in Cairo as early as 25 years ago. The core concept was focused on "efforts to prevent unwanted and unplanned pregnancies", which have been the main cause of population growth in developing countries;
3. Complicated discussions of the interpretation relating to the concept of reproductive rights is not so productive, from the standpoint that they may lead to an excessive emphasis on differences and gaps in nations in which there are groups that are conspicuously different religiously, historically and socially. Rather, in order to reach concrete solutions, the focal question should be "How can we achieve reproductive rights?". Such a question should take center stage in discussions.
4. In order to address population issues, the utmost importance of early-stage education concerning population issues and RH all over the world should be emphasized.

Hon. Suematsu concluded his presentation by emphasizing three important roles of parliamentarians in this regard:

1. Ensure an adequate budget for the nation to tackle population issues.
2. Deepen public understanding of these issues
3. Ensure that your proposals to the outside world concerning these issues are necessary, productive and concrete.

Discussion

Major points of discussion following the presentations:

- Necessity of laws against early marriage.
- Problem of Muslim clerics focusing on women's bodily changes rather than age as a criterion for marriage.
- Ways to reconcile cultural differences with human rights.
- Necessity of prioritizing the SDGs in countries with limited resources.
- Emphasis on SDG5 in Jordan.
- Disparity in achieving results among countries. Lebanon, where there are only six female representatives in contrast to 122 male representatives, as a case in point.

- Necessity to find a balance between general international commitments and special national commitments.
- Indonesia's success in advancing rules against free sex, drugs, and young marriage. (No free sex, no drugs, no young marriage, and 2 children per family)
- Bahrain government's success in matching expenditures with revenues so as to resolve issues relating to the unemployment of women.
- Women as major players in Bahrain where the gender gap is being removed.
- Japan has a historical background that worked on decreasing differences.



SESSION FIVE: Discussion for the Adoption of the Parliamentarians' Recommendations for the ICPD+25

Session Chair: Hon. Maria Lourdes Acosta-Alba, MP Philippines

Before discussing the declaration draft, the convening parliamentarians stressed the importance of coming to a consensus that everyone supports actively through weaving together best ideas and taking into account everyone's concerns.

They began by defining the meaning and depth of "commitment" and proceeded with a line-by-line discussion of the declaration draft. The process took over two hours of dynamic and creative discussion.

Under the chairpersonship of Hon. Acosta-Alba, MP Philippines, *"Declaration of Commitment: Toward accelerating the promise Arab-Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development for ICPD+25"* was adopted.

This adoption was supported by Ms. Loubna Amhair, Former MP Morocco, and Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, Executive Director/Secretary General of APDA, as the secretariat of the session.

CLOSING SESSION

Address

Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Regional Director of UNFPA Arab States Regional Office

Dr. Shabaneh expressed his satisfaction that the meeting successfully focused on enhancing inter-regional parliamentarians' cooperation and building strong bridges for the exchange of experiences. He then said that this meeting emphasized the active role played by parliamentarians and the relevant outcomes were agreed upon, specifically priorities pertaining to the unfinished business of the ICPD.

He also stated that the outcomes of the meeting were important for the Nairobi Summit and extremely supportive of the ICPD Programme of Action, as they would be a roadmap for parliamentarians in achieving the ICPD agenda.

He then called upon parliamentarians to share the outcomes widely, including the declaration of commitments adopted at the meeting, and to interact with national delegates to the Nairobi Summit in order that they can have a clear understanding of the proceedings here.

He also stated that UNFPA would continue to work closely with FAPPD and APDA and to advance efforts to achieve common objectives. In this respect, he added that UNFPA counted on contributions by the parliamentarians who would attend the Nairobi Summit to intensify efforts for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development;

He also commended APDA for continuing their valuable support of the ICPD Programme of Action and called on parliamentarians on to mobilize resources and advocate for substantive financial investments to achieve the ICPD agenda.

Finally, he concluded his address by thanking the Government of Japan for its continued support for parliamentarians' engagement in advancing the ICPD agenda, as well as the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the meeting, and all the parties that made such an event possible.

Address

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

Hon. Al-Hmoud began his address by expressing his pleasure and satisfaction concerning the presentations, discussions and outcomes of the meeting. He also pointed to the high quality, and the sense of responsibility and importance that characterized the meeting.

He hoped that the discussions during the meeting would help parliamentarians achieve unity and be thus on the same page for the Nairobi Summit. He then praised the partnership between Arab and Asian countries, which he said was very productive.

Hon. Al-Hmoud concluded his speech by thanking, on behalf of all participating parliamentarians, the Kingdom of Morocco, its King and people for their hospitality. He also

thanked the President of the House of Councillors of Morocco, ADPA and all the parties that made this meeting a great success.

Address

Hon. Ghita Badroun, MP Morocco

Hon. Badroun expressed her gratitude to the convening parliamentarians for making this Arab and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development in Morocco a great success. She said she, like the rest of the present parliamentarians, benefited to a great extent from the high-quality presentations and discussions, and the outcomes were very fruitful.

She also expressed her confidence that Arab and Asian parliamentarians would work closely together at the Nairobi Summit.

She then proceeded to thank the President of the House of Councillors of Morocco, the APDA, and all the parties that contributed to the success of the meeting.

STUDY VISITS

Visit to the Training Institute for the Trades of the Automobile Industry of Casablanca (IFMIAC)



The Director of the Center, together with a group of administrators and instructors welcomed the parliamentarians and briefed them about the creation, history, and activities of the Center.

In her briefing, the Director said that the Center had been created as part of the National Agreement for Emerging Industries for 2009-2015 (PNEI), signed by His Majesty Mohammed VI, and was built on an area of 3,820 m². She added that IFMIA Casablanca is equipped with four departments (Automotive, Mechanical, Automated Systems, Business Training) and the Center directly and indirectly benefitted a large number of people through vocational training and employment promotion.

She also said that the Center had a variety of tools and materials to ensure that the training meets the needs of beneficiaries, including rooms equipped with the latest technologies to provide young people with skills and qualifications that facilitate their access to the job market.

Major points of discussion following the presentations:

- To a question as to whether the Center provides training in SRH education, the Director replied that the Center works with associations interested in this field, and through them organizes events, activities, and training workshops relating to such issues.

- To a question about funding sources, the Director replied that most sources come from the private sector as the Center follows a company-based approach.
- To a question about whether training is paid, the Director answered that the Center charges trainees a symbolic fee.

After that, the parliamentarians visited different rooms with facilities at the Center.

Visit to the Center for National Initiative For Human Development (Initiative Nationale pour le Développement Humain: INDH)

The Director and administrators of the Center welcomed the parliamentarians and briefed them about the institution.

In his briefing, the Director said that the institution is a public training center that aims at meeting the needs of the economic sector and satisfying the job market in terms of qualified human resources thus contributing to improving the competitiveness of both workers and business.

It also ensures employee development to support business development and promotes the employability of young people through degree and qualification programmes and support for business creation.

The training duration, modes, levels, courses and schedules are set by the OFPPT in accordance with regulations. He added that the selection process of candidates consists of ranking candidates according to their overall grade in their baccalaureate (High school Degree).

Major points of discussion following the presentations:

- To a question as to how the Center keeps up with the technologies and people's needs, the Director replied that the Center makes efforts to meet such needs by updating the curriculum and so forth.



Visit to the Um Kalthoum Social Complex

The Director of the Um Kalthoum Social Complex and the complex administrators briefed the parliamentarians while showing them through the facilities and sections of the Complex.

The Director began her briefing by giving her guests an overview of the location of the Complex. She said that in neighborhood is inhabited by more than 350,000 people and is considered a “pocket of misery” on the outskirts of Greater Casablanca. She also said that the area had been neglected for many years, and the terrorist attacks of 16 May 2003 had further marginalized the inhabitants. The Complex was built by a philanthropic Moroccan lady called Um Kalthoum Berrada to alleviate the suffering of those inhabitants. As her last wish she expressed her desire to devote her legacy to social work, and hence the Um Kalthoum Social Complex was created in 2007.

The Director said that the goal of the institution is to provide people with the means to attain dignity and autonomy, and to help build the Morocco of tomorrow and that this guides all actions of the Um Kalthoum Social Complex. She added that the Complex strives to provide people concretely with the necessary tools, training and courses to build a life for themselves.

It is also a place of welcome for the poor and destitute: babies, children in precarious situations, young people looking for training and employment, and so forth. The Complex also provides medical care for mothers and their children through the complex clinic.

She said that the Complex is entirely funded by the Berrad, a family noted for their philanthropy in Sidi Moumen.

The Director further stated that young people, a priority target, represent a large portion of 1,400 beneficiaries who benefit from the Complex on a daily basis. Highly-trained staff help them individually recover their confidence in the future.

Complex facilities include a kindergarten, an auditorium, a library, class rooms for language studies, dancing lessons and so forth, a restaurant, and other facilities.



Visit to the Cultural Complex Ghali (Theater and Drama Arts)

The Cultural Complex El Ghali is a counterpart of the Um Kalthoum Social Complex, as El Ghali Berrada and Um Kalthoum Berrada were husband and wife.

The Manager of the Cultural Complex El Ghali briefed the parliamentarians that the Complex was created by the deep awareness of Mr. El Ghali Berrada, who believed that the sectors of health and education are driving forces for development, and so strongly committed to these sectors.

The Manager added that Mr. El Ghali also saw that young people in Sidi Moumen did not have much access to basic knowledge because of the failures of school system and a lack of extracurricular structures in their neighborhood. According to her, he believed that a cultural deficit is detrimental and harmful for the personal development of young people and of their ability to develop relationships with others; and thus, he devoted himself to creating this cultural complex.

The El Ghali Cultural Complex consists of a conservatory (over an area of 2,000 m²), a 350-seat theater, several dancing rooms, music rooms, and visual arts halls.



Appendix 1: Declaration



Declaration of Commitment

Toward accelerating the promise

Arab-Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development for ICPD+25

Morocco

19 September 2019

We, members of parliaments from Arab and Asia regions, participating in the parliamentary meeting on ICPD@25 in Morocco, 18-20 September 2019;

Taking into account the results, challenges and recommendations of the regional and global reviews of progress in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, and

Noting that Nairobi Summit, celebrating ICPD@25 and UNFPA@50, signals an important phase to achieve the SDGs 2030” leaving no one behind”.

1. Acknowledge the remarkable progress achieved since the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
2. Acknowledge that population constitutes a society and that without completing unfinished business of the ICPD, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will not be achieved.
3. Acknowledge that, despite progress made, the ICPD’s vision remains unfinished business in the regions and note that challenges to full implementation of the Programme of Action and achieving the SDGs by 2030 are still prominent;
4. We are committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ICPD Programme of Action in the Arab and Asia regions, and the role of UNFPA in support of the implementation of the ICPD agenda as a guide for governments to formulate their population policies and programmes;
5. Affirm the perspective of the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD), which emphasizes a strong relationship between population and sustainable development;
6. Recognize that population issues will not have substantial progress without social and economic development under the concept of sustainable development, which addresses environment as an indivisible component;
7. Recognize that in order to finish the unfinished business of the ICPD and fulfill reproductive rights, as defined at the ICPD, enabling conditions for sustainable and inclusive

development, including the eradication of hunger, malnutrition, protection of environment, and gender equality must be in place;

8. Reaffirm that ending unmet needs of family planning, ending preventable maternal deaths and ending violence, discrimination and all forms of harmful practices against women and girls are vital in achieving the SDGs;
9. Recognize the unprecedented numbers of people affected and displaced by humanitarian crises, conflicts and occupation, which are increasing in scale and severity that continue to overwhelm humanitarian response capacities.

In line with our role as parliamentarians, we commit to:

1. Legislate laws and formulate policies that enable conditions for reproductive and sexual health and reproductive rights for all;
2. Formulate and implement comprehensive socio-economic policies and programmes that allow both developed and developing countries to go through a balanced fertility transition for building a sustainable society;
3. Emphasize the importance of investment in youth, as the main actors for population, reproductive health, gender equality, economic and social development and environmental protection;
4. Continue to advocate for the full implementation of the ICPD promise of universal access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, as affirmed in the SDGs, as vital to deliver the vision for a world where preventable maternal deaths are fully eliminated, where unmet need for family planning is zero, where gender-based violence and harmful practices are eliminated, and where young people can live healthy and productive lives;
5. Ensure that the rights of all individuals are respected, protected and fulfilled as set forth in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights;
6. Support initiation and enactment of legislation and policies that link national constitutions to the ICPD agenda with people's rights perspectives, health, education, planning and economic development;
7. Enact progressive laws, policies and programmes to prevent and protect all persons from discrimination, stigmatization and violence in public and private spheres, including gender-based violence; and to amend laws, policies and programmes that address violation of human rights and discrimination on the basis of gender, sexuality and ethnicity, as well as emerging forms of violence such as cyber and political violence;
8. Enact laws, policies and programmes that respect, protect and fulfill SRH and reproductive rights of all individuals, and removing barriers towards realizing the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of a comprehensive package of SRH services and information;
9. Advocate to change social norms, laws and policies, to uphold human rights, in particular the most crucial reforms that promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls based on equal opportunities;
10. Ensure the rights of all individuals to comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services and guarantee access to safe, modern methods of voluntary contraception as part of an inclusive and integrated package of SRH services and information included in humanitarian situations;

11. Adopt legislations, policies and measures that prevent and eradicate gender-based and sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations and humanitarian emergencies, and encourage adaptation of international and regional conventions;
12. Adopt comprehensive legislations to eliminate all harmful practices, including child and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and further enact laws to raise the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 years;
13. Urge for strengthening the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety mechanisms, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and Climate Change Adaptation. Health services, including SRH services, remain significantly under-funded in crisis settings;
14. Advocate for the allocation of appropriate and sufficient resources for long-term investments to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth in support of implementing the ICPD Programme of Action;
15. Call upon UNFPA and its partners to continue to work to ensure full implementation of the ICPD Agenda and leverage this momentum to mobilize political, financial and technical support to secure consensus towards full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action;
16. Ensure stronger political commitment to actualize full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and use our role as parliamentarians to keep our Governments accountable to the commitments made in Cairo and for achieving the SDGs by 2030;
17. Ensure that appropriate and timely population, health, gender and other development data, disaggregated, by sex, age, disability and other characteristics, are made publicly available in order to facilitate sharing and using knowledge to improve public accountability and ensure that no one is left behind;
18. Encourage regional, inter-regional and global cooperation, including south-south initiatives, cooperation between and across countries of Asia and Arab States to advance integration of population dynamics in the SDG monitoring processes, as well as in harnessing the demographic dividend learning from successful examples of Asia and Arab region;
19. Work with governments, regional, inter-regional and global forums to attain and maintain peace and security within and across boundaries of countries to avoid negative implications of conflicts, emergencies and humanitarian crises based on international law and enhance preventive diplomacy, and
20. Congratulate UNFPA on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and for its continued works to ensure reproductive rights for all, and to wish the Nairobi Summit great success in advancing the ICPD Programme of Action and achieving concrete results and commitments in addressing the unfulfilled business.

Appendix 2: Programme

Arab and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development for ICPD+25

"Moving Forward the Unfinished Business of the ICPD"

18-20 September 2019
The Kingdom of Morocco

Programme

17 September 2019	
	Arrival of participants
18 September 2019 – Meeting Day 1 (Venue: House of Councilors, Rabat)	
08:00	Meet in the hotel lobby (international participants)
08:00-09:30	Travel from Casablanca to Rabat (international participants)
09:30-10:00	Registration (Location: House of Councilors, Morocco)
10:00-10:40	Opening (Venue: Main Hall, House of Councilors, Morocco)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address by the Host Organization H.E. Abdelhakim Benchamach, President of the House of Councilors of Morocco 2. Address by the Organizer Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko, MP Japan, Vice-Chair of JPFP 3. Address Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Regional Director of UNFPA Arab States Regional Office 4. Address H.E. Hon. Marwan Al-Hmoud, MP Jordan, Secretary-General of FAPPD
10:40-11:00	Group Photo & Coffee Break (Location: Main Hall)
11:00-11:30	Session 1: Finishing the Unfinished Business of the ICPD
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unfinished Business of the ICPD and Commitment Toward the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Regional Director of UNFPA Arab States Regional Office [30 min]
11:30-12:30	<p>Discussion [60 min]</p> <p>Session Chair: Hon. Ghita Badroun, MP Morocco</p>
12:30-13:45	Lunch (Location: Restaurant at the Parliament Building)
13:45-14:45	Session 2: Population Dynamics, Population Policies and the SDGs
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investment in Youth Hon. Sharif Rahimzoda, MP Tajikistan [15 min] 2. Ageing and Balance fertility toward SDGs Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, Executive Director/Secretary General of APDA [15 min]

	3. Hon. Hector Appuhamy , MP Sri Lanka [15 min]
14:45-15:30	Discussion [45 min] Session Chair: Hon. Wafa Bani Mustafa , MP Jordan
15:30-17:30	Travel from Rabat to Casablanca (international participants)
19 September 2019 – Meeting Day 2 (Venue: Hotel Odyssee Center, Casablanca)	
09:00-09:30	Registration (Location: Pénélope room, Mezzanine fl., Hotel Odyssee Center, Casablanca)
09:30-10:30	Session 3: Women's Empowerment, Gender Equality and Universal Access to SRH
	1. Hon. Dr. Sahar Qawasmi , MP Palestine [15 min] 2. Hon. Sana Mersni , MP Tunisia [15 min] 3. Ms. Loubna Amhair , Engineer, Former MP, Morocco [15 min]
10:15-11:00	Discussion [45 min] Session Chair: Hon. Viplove Thakur , MP India, Vice-Chair of IAPPD
11:00-11:20	Coffee Break (Location: Restaurant L'escale, Mezzanine fl., Hotel Odyssee Center)
11:20-12:20	Session 4: Panel Discussion: Parliamentarians' Roles in Addressing the ICPD Unfinished Agenda
	<i>Moderator:</i> 1. Dr. Abdullah Zoubi , UNFPA Arab States Regional Office [10 min] <i>Panelists:</i> 2. Hon. Ahed Al-Kanj , MP Syria [10 min] 3. Hon. Amara Alsir , MP Sudan [10 min] 4. Hon. Fatema Abbas , MP Bahrain [10 min] 5. Hon. Ermalena. M. Hasbullah , MP Indonesia [10 min] 6. Hon. Yoshinori Suematsu , MP Japan [10 min]
12:20-12:50	Discussion [30 min]
12:50-14:00	Lunch (Location: Restaurant L'escale, Mezzanine fl., Hotel Odyssee Center)
14:00-15:15	Session 5: Discussion for the Adoption of Parliamentarians' Recommendations for the ICPD+25
	Session Chair: Hon. Maria Lourdes Acosta-Alba , MP Philippines
15:15-16:00	Coffee Break and formatting the Recommendations (Location: Restaurant L'escale, Mezzanine fl., Hotel Odyssee Center)
16:00-17:00	Closing Session
	1. <i>Address</i> Dr. Luay Shabaneh , Regional Director of UNFPA Arab States Regional Office 2. <i>Address</i> Hon. Ghita Badroun , MP Morocco

20 September 2019 Study Visit	
08:30-08:40	Meeting at the hotel lobby
08:40-09:00	Travel
09:00-10:00	Briefing at Vocational Training Institute (Youth training)
10:00-10:20	Travel
10:20-11:20	Briefing at Human Development Center
11:20-11:40	Travel
11:40-12:40	Briefing at Sidi Moumen Center (Social Complex Oum Keltoum)
12:45-13:30	Briefing at Sidi Moumen Center (Cultural Complex El Ghali)
13:30-14:00	Travel
14:00-15:00	Lunch (Location: Basmane Restaurant)
15:00-16:00	Travel back to the hotel
21 September 2019	
	Departure of participants

Organized by:

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

Hosted by:

The House of Councilors of Morocco

The Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD)

Supported by:

The Japan Trust Fund (JTF)

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

In cooperation with

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)



Appendix 3: List of Participants

MPs and National Committees on Population and Development				
1	Hon.	Abdelmadjid Tagguiche	Algeria	Former MP; Former President of FAPPD
2	Hon. Dr.	Fatema Abbas Qasim Mohamed	Bahrain	MP
3	Hon.	Hassan Omar	Djibouti	MP
4	Hon. Dr.	Abdelhady El Kasbey	Egypt	MP
5	Hon.	Viplove Thakur	India	MP
6	Mr.	Manmohan Sharma	India	IAPPD Executive Secretary
7	Hon.	Ermalena Musilm Hasbullah	Indonesia	MP
8	Hon.	Teruhiko Mashiko	Japan	MP; Vice-Chair of JPFP
9	Hon.	Yoshinori Suematsu	Japan	MP
10	Hon.	Marwan Al-Hmoud	Jordan	MP; Secretary-General of FAPPD
11	Hon.	Wafa' Bani Mustafa	Jordan	MP
12	Hon.	Rasmieh Al Kaabneh	Jordan	MP
13	Ms.	Maha Allouzi	Jordan	Directorate of International Parliamentary Affairs
14	Hon.	Simon Abiramia	Lebanon	MP
15	H.E.	Abdelhakim Benchamach	Morocco	President of the House of Councillors
16	Hon.	Abdessamad Qayouh	Morocco	Vice President of the House of Councillors
17	Hon.	Abed Salam Alabar	Morocco	MP
18	Hon.	Abed Wahab Belfeqeh	Morocco	MP
19	Hon.	Alarabi Almahrashi	Morocco	MP
20	Hon.	Abed Ali Hami Alden	Morocco	MP
21	Hon.	Aisha Ayatallah	Morocco	MP
22	Hon.	Fatima Alzahra Heawi	Morocco	MP
23	Hon.	Ghita Badroun	Morocco	MP
24	Hon.	Maryam Wahsat	Morocco	MP
25	Hon.	Malika Khalil	Morocco	MP
26	Hon.	Aicha Aitalla	Morocco	MP
27	Hon.	Fatima Zohra Al Yahyaoui	Morocco	MP
28	Ms.	Loubna Amhair	Morocco	Engineer, Former MP
29	Hon.	Shah Bharat Kumar	Nepal	MP
30	Mr.	Manohar Bhattarai	Nepal	Secretary General of the National Assembly
31	Hon. Dr.	Sahar Qawasmi	Palestine	MP
32	Hon.	Maria Lourdes Acosta-Alba	Philippines	MP
33	Hon.	Amera Alsir	Sudan	MP
34	Hon.	Hector Appuhamy	Sri Lanka	MP
35	Hon.	Ahed AlKinj	Syria	MP
36	Hon. Dr.	Sharif Rahimzoda	Tajikistan	MP
37	Mr.	Mukhammadikbol Atoev	Tajikistan	Parliamentary Advisor
38	Hon.	Souhail Alouini	Tunisia	MP
39	Hon.	Sana Mersni	Tunisia	MP

Parliament and Government				
40	Mr.	Allal Mahnine	Morocco	Secretary General, the House of Councillors
41	Ms.	Jamila Righi	Morocco	Conservateur, the House of Councillors
42	Ms.	Ezzohra Ait Tarouat	Morocco	Officer, House of Councillors
43	Mr.	Ayoub Aferiat	Morocco	Officer, House of Councillors
44	Mr.	Mourad Mekouar	Morocco	Officer, House of Councillors
45	Mr.	Abd Rahim Hachimi	Morocco	Officer, House of Councillors
46	Mr.	Shunsuke Fujimori	Morocco	First Secretary, the Embassy of Japan to Morocco
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)				
47	Dr.	Luay Shabaneh	Egypt	Regional Director, Arab States Regional Office (ASRO)
48	Dr.	Abdallah Abdel Aziz	Egypt	ASRO Regional Coordinator
49	Ms.	Ghada Diab	Egypt	ASRO
50	Mr.	Luis Mora	Morocco	Representative, Morocco Office
Media/Observers / Rapporteur				
51	Mr.	Ikram Lazrek	Morocco	Al Ghad Channel
52	Mr.	Mahochi Ilyas	Morocco	Al Ghad Channel
53	Ms.	Bouchra Azour	Morocco	Journalist, MAP
54	Mr.	Norddine Zouidni	Morocco	Rapporteur
Secretariat of Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD)				
55	Dr.	Mohammad Al Smadi	Jordan	FAPPD Regional Coordinator
56	Ms.	Baida'a Mohammad	Jordan	Parliamentary Assistant
The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)				
57	Dr.	Osamu Kusumoto	Japan	Secretary-General; Executive Director
58	Ms.	Hitomi Tsunekawa	Japan	
59	Dr.	Farrukh Usmonov	Japan	
Interpreters				
60	Mr.	Tsukushi Ikeda	Japan	Interpreter
61	Mr.	Ait Ali Ayoub	Morocco	Interpreter
62	Mr.	Ouzate Hassan	Morocco	Interpreter