

REPORT OF THE 2006 INTERNATIONAL
PARLIAMENTARIANS' CONFERENCE
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION

21-22 NOVEMBER 2006
BANGKOK, THAILAND

ORGANIZED BY:

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FORUM ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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**Report of the 2006 International
Parliamentarians' Conference
on the Implementation of the ICPD
Programme of Action**

Host Organizations

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)
European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF)
Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD)
Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG)
Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)
National Legislative Assembly of Thailand
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

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CHAPTER 1

BANGKOK STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

1. We Parliamentarians from all over the world gather in Bangkok, Thailand, on 21-22 November 2006, to honour our pledge to take stock of the progress we have made in carrying out the actions we committed ourselves to in the Ottawa Statement of Commitment of November 2002 and the Strasbourg Statement of Commitment of October 2004.
2. The two Statements provide the point of reference for our work.
3. They commit us to take action individually and collectively through mobilizing resources and creating enabling environments for sexual and reproductive health issues.
4. Our action will prioritize the: promotion and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights of all individuals; defense and advancement of women's empowerment, gender equality and equity; the elimination of all forms of discrimination, coercion and violence against women and girls; the reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality, unsafe abortion, and the strengthening of safe motherhood and family planning services; achievement of universal access to HIV and AIDS prevention, care, treatment and support; integration of HIV and AIDS activities with sexual and reproductive health programmes; and the universal provision of information and services to youth, both in and out of school.
5. They commit us to give highest priority in national budgets, sector-wide approaches and poverty-reduction strategies to expanding access to comprehensive reproductive health information, services and commodities.
6. Most importantly, they hold us accountable to translate these commitments into concrete results and to report regularly and systematically on how well we have done so.

TAKING STOCK

7. Our stocktaking has reaffirmed three points in particular:
 - (a) Our unwavering commitment to and support for the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) as the foundation of our actions,
 - (b) The indispensable role of the ICPD Programme of Action in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals, and
 - (c) The need to identify, and overcome, obstacles to mobilizing the resources and creating the enabling environment we need to implement the ICPD Programme of Action.
8. We have made considerable progress. We have enacted important legislation in the area of gender equality and violence against women. And we have had modest success in influencing allocations of domestic funds to implement the ICPD Programme of Action. Our record on advocacy, locally and globally, to change perceptions and attitudes and mainstream sexual and reproductive health in all development processes remains mixed. Commitments secured at the highest level meetings of world leaders, including the 2005 World Summit, in support

of universal access to reproductive health and its critical linkage to the international development agenda, still remain to be translated into legislation, national policies and programmes, supported with the requisite funding.

9. Funding for the treatment of AIDS has grown exponentially, while funds for its prevention remain scarce. Funding for family planning, the first line of defense against maternal mortality, has dropped from 55 per cent of total population funding in 1995 to 9 per cent today. And funds for reproductive health commodities remain in short supply.
10. As a result, statistics on maternal mortality and morbidity remain virtually unchanged in some regions of the world, while statistics on HIV and AIDS reflect only slow change.

THE ROAD AHEAD

11. We need to package the clear evidence that addressing population issues and sexual and reproductive health are central to the achievement of development goals, in order to facilitate national policy dialogue and legislation and to review more effectively budget proposals.
 12. We must convey information to the public, our parliamentary colleagues, government officials, and the media in clear, concise and simple language, including the following messages:
 - (a) Every minute a woman dies of pregnancy-related complications, including unsafe abortions, almost all of them in developing countries.
 - (b) Obstetric complications are the leading cause of death for women of reproductive age in developing countries.
 - (c) One third of all pregnant women receive no health care during pregnancy; 60 per cent of deliveries take place outside of health facilities; only half of all deliveries are assisted by skilled birth attendants.
 13. We must convey clear messages on the cost-benefit of addressing the unmet needs of 200 million women, including the costs of providing emergency obstetric care, ensuring that all deliveries are assisted by skilled birth attendants and providing services for prevention, care, treatment and support for people living with HIV and AIDS.
 14. Most importantly, we must convey in clear and concise terms the human, social and economic costs if we fail to address these population and sexual and reproductive health issues.
 15. We must convince our parliamentary colleagues and government officials that:
 - (a) Quality reproductive health care saves lives, and reduces poverty.
 - (b) The failure of previous national development plans can be attributed, among others, to the failure to invest in sexual and reproductive health and to promote the rights of women and girls.
 - (c) The MDGs, particularly the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, cannot
- (d) Some 200 million women in developing countries have an unmet need for effective contraception. Meeting their needs would prevent 23 million unplanned births a year, 22 million induced abortions, 142,000 pregnancy-related deaths, including 53,000 from unsafe abortions, and 1.4 million infant deaths.
 - (e) Almost 1 million new infections each day from sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, account for 17 per cent of economic losses caused by ill-health in developing countries, and contribute to an enormous burden of ill-health and death across the globe.
 - (f) Fewer than 20 per cent of people at high risk of HIV infection have access to proven prevention interventions.



Backdrop of the IPCI/ICPD reception area.

- be achieved if questions of population, reproductive health and sustainable development are not squarely addressed through greater investment in education and health, and the prevention of preventable deaths among women.
16. We must engage constructively with all sectors of society, listen to their concerns, discuss perceptions and realities with them and debate sexual and reproductive health issues publicly and in a civil manner.
 17. We must secure the understanding and support of different sectors of society that quality reproductive health information and services, that are available, accessible and affordable, including in rural areas, enable women to make choices that safeguard their health and lives, fulfill their potential, and contribute productively to society. Recognizing that unsafe abortion is one of the leading causes of women's death, we must also convey this information to our parliamentary colleagues and to government officials who are responsible for implementing the ICPD Programme of Action.
 - (a) Attain at least 10 per cent of national development budgets and development assistance budgets for population and reproductive health programmes including HIV and AIDS prevention and especially, family planning and reproductive health commodities.
 - (b) Ensure that the new target on universal access to reproductive health is immediately and fully integrated into national development strategies and is given highest priority in the plans, implementation and monitoring of relevant government ministries.
 - (c) Mobilize our governments to support the adoption of indicators by Member States of the United Nations to monitor the target of universal access to reproductive health by 2015 and to use those indicators as soon as they are adopted, supplemented by additional programme indicators responsive to national needs.
 - (d) Work closely with our national authorities to ensure that the reform processes being undertaken in the United Nations protect, promote and enhance sensitive mandates such as population, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and that these areas are recognized
 18. We commit to:
 - (a) Attain at least 10 per cent of national development budgets and develop-

as central to the support of the United Nations for national development.

- (e) Ensure that when laws are passed and or policies adopted they are implemented. We must further ensure that laws and policies include a provision for reporting to the parliament on the progress of implementation.
- (f) Build networks, coalitions and partnerships with our parliamentary colleagues, government officials, local NGOs and individuals in order to create the political will and build the mass support needed to overcome opposition and to clarify misperceptions about population and reproductive health issues.
- (g) Advance awareness of, and legislation and policy to address, the linkages between people, reproductive health and the environment, including the need for sustainable production and consumption patterns, sustainable and equitable natural resources use, and measures to prevent environmental degradation and to take action on climate change.
- (h) Learn how to work effectively with the media to ensure that our messages reach the widest audience possible.
- (i) Create partnerships with regional parliamentary groups and UNFPA to develop effective mechanisms to network with other parliamentarians to exchange experiences and accurate information, including model legislation and policies, share our successes, learn from our failures and monitor our work.
- (j) Lead national efforts to ratify and implement key provisions of all relevant international conventions on the protection and promotion of the rights of people,

including indigenous people, migrants, refugees, people with disabilities and other marginalized and vulnerable groups.

- (k) Ensure that national legislation takes into account the aspirations of young people and their sexual and reproductive health and rights, recognizing that they have a crucial role to play in decision-making and development processes.
- (l) Urge governments and the private sector to give priority to and increase resources for continued research and development of new disease prevention technologies, such as vaccines and microbicides, as well as promoting access to the newly developed HPV vaccine that potentially protects against cancer of the cervix.
- (m) Action to manage and prevent STIs in order to increase wellbeing, and prevent infertility, cervical cancer, maternal and newborn complications and deaths, and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

19. Commitment to collective action locally, nationally, regionally and internationally is crucial if we are to achieve these objectives.

PLEDGE

20. To this end, we Parliamentarians have agreed to a set of regional action plans. These plans constitute a basis for achieving the short-, medium- and long-term objectives to which we commit ourselves in Bangkok. We pledge to carry out these actions and to systematically and actively monitor the progress we have made in doing so, based on measurable benchmarks. We further pledge to make periodic stocktaking an integral part of our work and to report regularly on it through parliamentary groups and to meet again in three years to assess the progress we have made.

(N.B. See also the regional action plans presented in Chapter VIII of the present report.)

CHAPTER II

BACKGROUND OF THE CONFERENCE

The 2006 International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPCI/ICPD) took place in Bangkok, Thailand, 21-22 November 2006. The conference brought together over 300 Parliamentarians, governmental and non-governmental representatives, and other participants from over 100 countries. The list of participants is provided in annex III.

The National Legislative Assembly of Thailand and the Asian Forum for Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), hosted the event, in collaboration with the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF), the Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD), the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (IAPG), the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The conference was organized by AFPPD and the United Nations

Population Fund (UNFPA). Financial and/or other support was provided by the Governments of Australia, Canada, Japan, Switzerland, and Thailand, as well as by AFPPD, UNESCAP and UNFPA.



UNFPA Executive Director, Ms. Obaid receives a gift of appreciation from the AFPPD Chairman, Mr. Fukuda.

The 2006 conference was the third of its kind. The two previous conferences had been held, respectively, in Ottawa, Canada, in 2002, and Strasbourg, France, in 2004. The IPCI/ICPD series of conferences are designed to focus attention on two essential elements required for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action of the landmark 1994 International Conference on Population and

Development (ICPD): (a) creating an enabling legislative and policy environment to promote population and development, reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, and gender equity and equality and empowerment of women; and (b) mobilizing national and international resources to assist developing countries in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action.

CHAPTER III

OPENING CEREMONY

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided at the opening ceremony of the 2006 International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

Her Royal Highness was welcomed by the Honourable Yasuo Fukuda, Member of Parliament (Japan) and Chair, AFPPD, who informed her about the objectives of the conference. She was also welcomed by the Honourable Meechai Ruchupan, President, National Legislative Assembly of Thailand, who traced the background of the conference and informed the Princess that the conference aimed to take stock of the results of the implementation of the commitments made at the two previous conferences held in Ottawa, Canada, in 2002, and Strasbourg, France, in 2004. Finally, she was welcomed by Ms. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA. Ms. Obaid expressed profound gratitude to her Royal Highness for gracing the opening ceremony with her presence and noted that this was a message of encouragement for “our collective commitment to better address the needs and human rights of our fellow citizens around the world”.

In addressing the conference, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn noted that she was pleased to preside over the opening ceremony and conveyed her appreciation to all those who were taking part in the important event. She stated that Parliamentarians played a significant role in promoting sustainable development, given the fact that they served as a bridge between citizens and government and were able to reinforce policies that aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Noting that development work was

challenging and often difficult, she urged people in the development field to persevere and cooperate in order to achieve sustainable development. Her Royal Highness concluded by wishing all the peoples and the countries represented at the conference “prosperity forever”.



*Princess Maha Chakri
Sirindhorn*

Ms. Safiye Cagar, Director, Information Executive Board and Resource Mobilization Division (IERD), UNFPA, elaborated on the purpose of the 2006 IPCI/ICPD, namely, to promote dialogue among the world's Parliamentarians on the ICPD Programme of Action; and to generate commitment to mobilize resources and create the enabling legislative and policy environment for population and development. She noted that conference participants would take stock of progress to date and resolve on a strategy for future action. She thanked the Parliamentarians for their leadership and advocacy efforts that had generated further support for the ICPD agenda and that had also energized their colleagues in legislative and executive bodies. She stated that the most significant development since the 2004 conference in Strasbourg was that at the 2005 World Summit at the United Nations, world leaders had committed themselves to two major ICPD goals: universal access to reproductive health by 2015; and women's empowerment and gender equity and equality.

Ms. Cagar noted that while developing and developed countries had reached the resource targets for



Ms. Cagar

2005 that were agreed in 1994 at the ICPD in Cairo, the development environment had changed radically since 1994. New and updated estimates of the true cost of achieving the ICPD goals put the resource requirements at much higher levels than those foreseen in 1994. She underscored that the global indicators of reproductive health had changed very little since 1994. She stated that “our efforts are preventing the situation from deteriorating but we are not yet improving it”. She stressed that failure to improve

conditions put at risk the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). She underscored that “we cannot halve extreme poverty by 2015, if we cannot save women’s lives today”.

Ms. Cagar drew attention to the key findings and recommendations of the 2006 Global Survey: Cairo to 2015 – The Road to Success. She noted the achievements, constraints, regional differences, and areas for priority action that had been identified in the Draft Report of the Global Survey. She emphasized that for its part UNFPA stood ready to provide its support in assisting Parliamentarians in their efforts to promote and advance the ICPD agenda. She concluded by underscoring that Parliamentarians were “advocates for the consensus of ICPD, champions of reproductive health and rights, and voices in the chambers of policy and corridors of power, raised on behalf of women’s empowerment and gender equality”. (The full text of Ms. Cagar’s statement may be accessed at http://www.unfpa.org/parliamentarians/ipci/bangkok/documents/speech_safiye_cagar.doc)

CHAPTER IV

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Three keynote addresses were delivered at the conference by Mr. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); Ms. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and Ms. Gill Greer, Director-General, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). Highlights from the keynote addresses are provided below.



Mr. Kim

Mr. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary, UNESCAP, provided an historical overview of the shift in emphasis of population concerns in the development agenda during the past fifty years. He identified the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) as

a major milestone that had marked a paradigm shift whereby population concerns had moved away from a narrow demographic target/economic viewpoint to a broader people-centred, socio-economic development perspective that was based on individual needs and aspirations. Mr. Kim emphasized that ICPD had articulated a new vision that underscored the close links between sustainable development, reproductive health and gender equality.

He underlined the inextricable linkages between the ICPD goals and the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs), stressing that “reaching the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action is essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals”. “The key to achieving the ICPD goals and the MDGs”, he continued “is the empowerment of people, men and women alike”. Mr. Kim underscored that creating an enabling environment was equally important.

Focusing on the Asia and the Pacific region, Mr. Kim highlighted how economic, social and demographic changes over the past decade had resulted in new population challenges, such as age structure changes, population ageing, international migration, and HIV/AIDS. While noting that economies and societies had to adapt to changing realities, Mr. Kim stated that these “changes and their implications for development and the well-being of people in the region are neither easily understood nor anticipated”. He emphasized that UNESCAP, in collaboration with other organizations such as UNFPA, AFFPD and IOM, had focused on assisting countries in achieving ICPD goals and the MDGs. (The full text of Mr. Kim’s statement may be accessed at http://www.unfpa.org/parliamentarians/ipci/bangkok/documents/speech_es_keynote.doc.)

Ms. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA, began by welcoming all the participants to the conference and expressing deep appreciation to the conference organizers, host organizations and the Governments that had provided funding and support. She stated that: “We are here to ensure that greater progress is made to advance human rights, including the right to sexual and reproductive health. We are here to strengthen action to defend and advance gender equality and equity and women’s empowerment. And we are here to ensure that comprehensive reproductive health

services, including family planning and reproductive health commodities, are given high priority in national budgets, sector-wide approaches and poverty-reduction strategies”.

Noting that rapid action was needed in order to meet the 2015 deadline for the MDGs, she underscored that it was necessary “to galvanize greater commitment to reducing maternal mortality and morbidity and unsafe abortion and to strengthening safe motherhood services, through greater access to family planning, assured presence of skilled attendants during childbirth and the availability of and access to emergency obstetric care”.



Ms. Obaid

In referring to the findings of the 2006 Global Survey: Cairo to 2015 – The Road to Success, Ms Obaid noted that while the survey had shown “in-

creased personal involvement of Parliamentarians in reviewing and adopting legislation in line with the ICPD Programme of Action in every region”, the findings had also revealed “the need for stronger follow-up action in oversight and leadership to ensure effective implementation so that laws and policies are implemented, with direct impact on the quality of life of people”.

Ms. Obaid stressed five key points with regard to the way forward:

- Increase investments in sexual and reproductive health, including family planning;
- Make full use of the new target on universal access to reproductive health within the MDG framework to mainstream reproductive health into all development and poverty reduction plans;

- More fully link policies and interventions for sexual and reproductive health with those for HIV and AIDS;
- Take stronger action to prevent and respond to violence against women;
- Build a bridge with women, youth and other civil society partners to promote better understanding of ICPD Programme of Action, to counter opposition and to promote accountability and greater progress in reaching the Millennium Development Goals, with their direct link to ICPD.

Ms. Obaid noted that greater investment in reproductive health was endorsed at the highest level by Heads of State and Government at the 2005 World Summit where they committed themselves to achieving the universal access to reproductive health by 2015.

She underscored the key role of Parliamentarians in paving the way for further progress in reaching the goals of the ICPD. “Your defense of human rights, including the right to reproductive health, gender equality, public participation and democratic values is vital at all times”, she stated. She concluded by observing that “As parliamentarians, you can transform the voices of the people into action by Governments. You have the power to make a real difference and I would like to assure you that UNFPA stands with you. Let us use this gathering to chart the way forward and make greater progress together”. (The full text of Ms. Obaid’s statement may be accessed at: http://www.unfpa.org/parliamentarians/ipci/bangkok/documents/speech_thoraya_ipci.doc.)

Ms. Gill Greer, Director-General, IPPF, noted that parliamentarians had taken significant steps towards achieving the goals agreed to in Ottawa and Strasbourg regarding the ICPD vision and the importance of reproductive health as a human right and a cornerstone of sustainable development. She added that “much more” still remained to be done.

Focusing on the shocking discrepancies in maternal mortality rates between women in developing and developed countries, Ms. Greer noted



Ms. Greer

that according to the World Bank an estimated 74 per cent of maternal deaths could be prevented if all women had access to interventions to address complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Underscoring the large unmet need, she stated that some 200 million women a year were not accessing the contraception they desired in order to space or prevent pregnancies. The vast majority of these women were young and lived in the developing world. The unmet need for information, services and supplies, combined with a lack of empowerment resulted in millions

of unwanted pregnancies and nearly 70,000 deaths from unsafe abortions every year. “Such statistics highlight a fundamental denial of human rights, of the right to health, and the right to development”, Ms Greer said.

Ms. Greer stressed that partnerships with civil society were central to moving the ICPD agenda forward. She added that IPPF was committed to partnerships with governments, NGOs and others. She stated that Parliamentarians were “the bridge between people and their governments” and were advocates for the rights and needs of their people. Furthermore, Parliamentarians had “power as legislators and policymakers”. She added that Parliamentarians could be “champions” who provided the leadership that would “protect rights and turn words and promises into actions”. (The full text of Ms. Greer’s statement may be accessed at http://www.unfpa.org/parliamentarians/ipci/bangkok/documents/speech_gill_ipci_final.doc.)

CHAPTER V

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following Parliamentarians were elected as officers of the conference:

CHAIR:

Honourable Yasuo Fukuda, Member of Parliament (Japan), Chair, AFPPD

VICE-CHAIRS:

Honourable Maria Antonieta Saa Diaz, Member of Parliament (Chile)

Honourable Nicolai Gerasimenko, Member of Parliament (Russian Federation)

Honourable Nafizah Nibal Al Moalem, Member of Parliament (Syrian Arab Republic)

Honourable Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye, Member of Parliament (Senegal)

DRAFTING COMMITTEE:

Honourable Malinee Sukavejworakit, former Senator (Thailand) and Secretary-General, AFPPD, and Chair of the Drafting Committee

Honourable Nouredine Benbraham, Member of Parliament (Algeria)

Honourable Alomiza Ennos, Member of Parliament (Liberia)

Honourable Sylvia Flores, Member of Parliament (Belize)

Honourable Khalifa Radwan, Member of Parliament (Egypt)

Honourable Anne van Lancker, Member of the European Parliament (Belgium)

Honourable Leon Bio Bigou, Member of Parliament (Benin)

Honourable Noor Jehan Panezai, Senator (Pakistan)

Honourable Marija Ausrine Pavilioniene, Member of Parliament (Lithuania)

Honourable Gilbert Cesar Remulla, Congressman (Phillipines)

Honourable Emilia Torres, Member of Parliament (Nicaragua)

Honourable Elioda Tumwesigye, Member of Parliament (Uganda)

A Steering Committee was established prior to the conference to guide preparations for the 2006 IPCI/ICPD. Members are listed below under the respective regional parliamentary group which they represented on the Steering Committee:

STEERING COMMITTEE AFPPD:

Honourable Yasuo Fukuda, Member of Parliament (Japan), Chair

Honourable Malinee Sukavejworakit, former Senator (Thailand) and Secretary-General, AFPPD

EPF:

Honourable Ruth Genner, Member of Parliament (Switzerland)

Honourable Carina Hagg, Member of Parliament (Sweden)

FAAPPD/AFRICA REGION:

Honourable Angeline Evina Ndo Engolo,
Member of Parliament (Cameroon)

Honourable Issa Abbas Ali, Member of
Parliament (Chad)

FAAPPD/ARAB REGION:

Honourable Khira Lagha Ben Fadhel, Member
of Parliament (Tunisia)

Honourable Fakhria Shaban Diari, Member of
Parliament (Bahrain)

IAPG:

Honourable Maria Cristina Perceval, Senator
(Argentina)

Honourable Maria Antonieta Saá, Member
of Parliament (Chile)

PGA:

Honourable Alain Destexhe, Senator
(Belgium)

Honourable Noor Jehan Panezai, Senator
(Pakistan)

CHAPTER VI

SPECIAL GUEST STATEMENTS

TAKING STOCK OF PROGRESS SINCE CAIRO – ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN IMPLEMENTING THE CAIRO AGENDA

Statements were delivered by four distinguished guest speakers: H.E. Mr. Zhang Weiqing, Minister, National Population and Family Planning Commission, the People's Republic of China; H.E. Ms. Alicia Muñoz Alá, Minister of Governance, Bolivia; H.E. Mr. Nassour Guelengdouksia Ouaidou, President of the National Assembly, Chad; and H.E. Ms. Naziha Escheikh, Deputy Minister of Public Health and State Secretary, Tunisia. Brief highlights from the statements are provided below and the full text of the statements may be accessed at <http://www.unfpa.org/parliamentarians/index.htm>.

H.E. Mr. Zhang Weiqing, focusing on China as the most populous country in the world, highlighted key population and development issues. In noting the critical impact population issues had on socio-economic development, he underscored



Mr. Weiqing

the important linkages between population dynamics, resources, the environment and sustainable development. He stated that in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International

Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Chinese Government had incorporated reproductive health in family planning programmes, with a focus on informed choice. A strong emphasis was placed on capacity-building of human resources to upgrade the quality of reproductive health/family planning care. He noted that as chair of the Partners in Population and Development, China had proactively promoted South-South cooperation, human resource training, and sharing and exchange of information and technical expertise, including regarding reproductive health commodities. Recalling the 2005 World Summit commitment to achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015, he underscored the vital role of reproductive health/family planning in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

H.E. Ms. Alicia Muñoz Alá emphasized the importance of partnerships between governments, parliamentarians and civil society to promote the ICPD agenda. She noted that building alliances with the opposition was also important for implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. She underscored that cross-cultural approaches and a commitment to human rights were essential to achieve sustainable development. She focused on the new enabling environment in Bolivia and the country's commitment to promote gender equality and social justice. She referred to the Inter-American Parliamentary Group's work to monitor implementation of laws and legislation and advance the achievement of the ICPD goals and the MDGs. She noted that in addition to work on gender equality, family planning and reproductive health, efforts were under way regarding legislation supporting indigenous women. She addressed the issue of migra-



Ms. Muñoz Alá

tion, including the pressure on young people to migrate and drew attention to legislation in her country to address trafficking, domestic violence, gender-based violence, and child exploitation.

H.E. Mr. Nassour Guelengdouksia Ouaidou expressed concern that the ICPD+10 evaluation had shown that countries in Africa seemed far from reaching the ICPD goals and the MDGs. He noted that between 1990 and 2001 the proportion of people in Africa living on less than \$1 a



Mr. Guelengdouksia Ouaidou

day had increased from 44 per cent to 66 per cent. He added that famine was causing young Africans to leave Africa. He drew attention to issues of poor governance and policies and the impact they had on development. He recalled that African and Arab parliamentarians had organized a round table meeting in Dakar in June 2004 that led to the Dakar-Ngor Declaration. He focused on the advances in the area of population and development that had occurred since 2004, including

an improved legislative environment; increased dialogue on population and development amongst parliamentarians and civil society representatives; and the establishment of regional partnerships for economic development in Africa. He noted that many obstacles remained and called on donors to increase official development assistance to 0.7 per cent of GDP and encouraged developing country governments to dedicate 20 per cent of their national budgets to meeting social sector needs. He called on UNFPA to continue to support censuses and to enhance partnerships with parliamentarians.

H.E. Ms. Neziha Escheikh focused on the many positive developments that had taken place in Tunisia and drew attention to health and socio-economic indicators that revealed the country's progress. She noted that family



Ms. Escheikh

planning was an integral part of the country's population policy and high quality reproductive health/family planning services, including for HIV prevention, were provided throughout the country, including to vulnerable groups and people in remote parts of the country. She observed that the national family programme had been strengthened and expanded following the ICPD in 1994. She highlighted the country's contributions in the area of South-South cooperation and expressed appreciation for the partnership with UNFPA.

CHAPTER VII

THE 2006 GLOBAL SURVEY: CAIRO TO 2015 – THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

A global survey was conducted between April and September 2006 to assess and document the progress made by Parliamentarians in both developed and developing countries in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. The survey was conducted by UNFPA in collaboration with the regional parliamentary groups on population and development and the School of Public Health, Harvard University, USA. The results of the survey formed the basis for discussions at the IPCI/ICPD in Bangkok, in November 2006. The Draft Report of the 2006 Global Survey delineated successes and challenges; regional disparities; laws enacted; bills proposed; policies adopted; increased budget allocations for ICPD issues; and partnerships. Based on the survey, the Draft Report also identified the tools needed to help strengthen the work of Parliamentarians in promoting and advancing the ICPD agenda.

Key findings and recommendations from the global survey led to the identification of specific needs that must be addressed to promote and enhance implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (see below).

1. The need for greater interaction with other Parliamentarians at national and regional levels.
2. The need to link the ICPD agenda to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to provide better monitoring of country progress.
3. The need to provide information, advocacy materials and training on their use.
4. The need to develop strategies to overcome religious and cultural opposition.
5. The need for training for developing country Parliamentarians on ICPD issues; and the need for study tours for donor country Parliamentarians to visit developing countries.
6. The need for more laws addressing HIV/AIDS.
7. The need to address regional disparities in enacting ICPD-related laws.
8. The need for developing country Parliamentarians to focus on increasing budget allocations for ICPD issues.
9. The need to increase gender awareness and gender balance.
10. The need to strengthen the implementation of laws and policies.
11. The need for increased financial and material support from UNFPA and the regional population groups in order to assist countries in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action.

CHAPTER VIII

REGIONAL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

REVIEWING THE RESULTS OF THE 2006 GLOBAL SURVEY ON PROGRESS MADE SINCE CAIRO AND RECOMMENDING FUTURE STRATEGIES FOR NATIONAL- AND REGIONAL-LEVEL ACTION

Parliamentarians and other conference participants engaged in regional group discussions. Each regional group reviewed and discussed the findings of the Global Survey that had been conducted earlier in 2006 by UNFPA in collaboration with regional parliamentary groups. The discussion in each regional group was guided by a chairperson. A resource person from UNFPA was also assigned to each group. On the basis of their discussions, each regional group identified the following: key findings of the Global Survey that pertained to their respective region; long-term goals for the region; short-term objectives; a regional action plan; and measurable benchmarks. Each regional group presented their findings and regional plans to the plenary. Summaries of each group's presentation are provided below.

AFRICA REGION

■ Key findings of the Global Survey

1. Insufficient up-to-date, country-owned data, including gender disaggregated data for monitoring Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) and national development plans;
2. Lack of awareness, including laws and regulations on gender and sexual

reproductive health and rights, and gender-based violence;

3. Incidence of poverty, recurrent social instability and conflicts have caused people, especially the youth, to engage in risky migration efforts to western countries in search for better livelihood opportunities.

■ Long-term goal for Africa Region

1. Promote gender equality, in particular by adopting laws to fight all forms of discrimination against women and girls, including gender-based violence; empower communities to protect the rights of women and to internalize these laws into their daily lives;
2. Promote integration of HIV/AIDS/sexual and reproductive health services into primary health care and increase funding for HIV prevention (including information, education and communication) and treatment; advocate for youth-friendly, sexual and



Parliamentarians from Africa engaged in a group discussion.

- Lack of national budget allocations across the region for implementing the ICPD agenda.

■ **Long-term goal for the Arab States region**

- Increase national budget allocations (by 10 per cent) for ICPD agenda;
- Include sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in all national development plans;



Parliamentarians from Egypt listen to the proceedings in the plenary.

- Protection from and prevention of gender-based violence and sexual violence.

■ **Short-term objectives**

- Establish national committees on population and development in all Arab States;
- Activate and strengthen regional parliamentary forums on population and development;
- Develop draft legislation on HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and youth issues.

■ **Regional plan of action**

- Establish dialogue and discussion among parliamentarians on religious and cultural obstacles to the advancement of the objectives of ICPD;
- Conduct training workshops for capacity-building of parliamentarians on advocacy for ICPD;
- Make available information on ICPD for the public and policy makers (e.g., policy briefs, awareness/media campaigns);

- Strengthen cooperation and sharing of knowledge and experiences between parliamentarians at regional and national levels.

■ **Measurable benchmarks**

- Number of parliamentary committees on population and development increased;
- Resources allocated in national budgets for ICPD agenda increased;
- Visibility of issues related to HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, and gender-based violence in official statements and media reports increased.



ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION

■ **Key findings of Global Survey**

- Need for information exchange among both developed and developing countries;
- Need to address opposition: (a) religious; (b) cultural; and (c) legislative process;
- Lack of monitoring of MDGs and ICPD;
- Legislation, enforcement and commitment necessary on HIV/AIDS and women's health, including abortion;



Parliamentarian from Argentina speaks during the plenary.

strengthened and some countries show an important level of macroeconomic growth. However, the region is characterized by disparities, inequalities and social exclusion. The inequality is associated with income distribution and access to productive assets and is reflected in significant differences in the social and economic situation of ethnic groups, women, young people, the elderly and other vulnerable groups. There are also significant gaps of development between and within countries in the region;

2. There is a significant gap between laws approved in response to social needs and in line with international human rights treaties and conferences, for example the ICPD, and their effective implementation through public policies. Many laws are not being implemented for budgetary reasons, which means that either governments and parliaments are not allocating resources in the national budgets or else the parliaments are not exercising control over the budget implementation;
3. The successive election of progressive governments and the approval of progressive public policies are having as counterpart an international and very well organized conservative offensive in the region.

■ Long-term goal for Latin America and the Caribbean region

1. Strengthen the rule of law and governance in the region through legislation that also guarantees sustainable development with social inclusion and social justice based on the full recognition and enjoyment of human rights;
2. Contribute to the alleviation of poverty and the reduction of inequalities in the region by enacting legislation that facilitates the implementation and monitoring of the MDGs and ICPD goals;
3. Promote and strengthen the principle of laicity of the states respecting the cultural and religious diversity of the region.

■ Short-term objectives

1. Promote the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and national and regional strategies for its divulgation;
2. Develop and implement a regional strategy to coordinate initiatives of progressive groups on the implementation of the ICPD agenda;
3. Assess the implementation of laws related to reproductive health, gender and population and development and use the results to promote knowledge sharing activities, including the development of model laws on relevant issues for countries in the region;
4. Strengthen the monitoring role of parliaments in the region, especially regarding legislation and public policies related to the ICPD agenda;
5. Develop initiatives aimed to inform and sensitize stakeholders and public opinion

on the importance of the ICPD agenda for development and poverty reduction, countering the arguments contrary to human rights made by conservatives groups.

■ **Regional plan of action**

1. Increase national budgets for the implementation of ICPD at the country level and promote activities for additional development assistance from donor countries for population matters;
2. Establish regional and subregional networks on population and development composed of parliamentarians, former parliamentarians and civil society organizations for the purpose of promoting the population and development agenda from a human rights perspective;
3. Identify and agree on priority regional themes and implement common strategies for the drafting of legislation and its approval process;
4. Build a broader alliance with civil society, judiciaries, government officials and political parties to facilitate the progress and sustainability of population and development policies;

5. Develop a regional strategy to work with the media on population and development issues;
6. Develop a regional conceptual framework on legislation and population and development.

■ **Measurable benchmarks**

1. Number and type of laws on population and development enacted that include financial provisions for their implementation;
2. Indicators developed by parliamentarians to measure the implementation of public policies on population and development linked with the achievement of the MDGs;
3. National mechanisms established to guarantee the allocation of at least 10 per cent of national budgets to public policies and programmes related to the ICPD Programme of Action;
4. Donor countries of the region spending 0.7 per cent of GNI on official development assistance, and percentage assigned to population and development programmes.

CHAPTER IX

THEMATIC GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Thematic group discussions were organized on five key topics and each conference attendee was invited to participate in one of the five groups. Each group discussion was chaired by a parliamentarian with a resource person designated to introduce the topic. Designated rapporteurs from each group reported back at the plenary session of the conference on group discussion outcomes.

The five topics selected for the group discussions were as follows:

Resource mobilization: Financing the ICPD agenda and the MDGs

Chair: Hon. Sonia Fertuzinhos, Member of Parliament, Portugal

Resource person: Dr. Joe Speidel, Adjunct Professor, University of California San Francisco

Rapporteur: Asger Ryhl, Chief, UNFPA Office in Copenhagen

National strategies to achieve universal access to reproductive health

Chair: Hon. Philomene Fouty-Soungou, Member of Parliament, Congo

Resource person: Mr. Stan Bernstein, Senior Policy Adviser, UNFPA

Rapporteur: Hedi Jamiyai, Director, UNFPA Office in Brussels

Role of parliamentarians in implementing the ICPD agenda and the MDGs

Chair: Hon. Malcolm Washer, Member of Parliament, Australia

Resource person: Mr. Sultan Aziz, Director, Asia and the Pacific Division, UNFPA

Rapporteur: Siri Tellier, Director, UNFPA Office in Geneva

Countering challenges to the ICPD agenda

Chair: Hon. Maria Mirtala Lopez Meija, Member of Parliament, El Salvador

Resource person: Mr. Jon O'Brien, Executive Vice-President, Catholics for a Free Choice

Rapporteurs: Mr. Eduardo Mangas, Programme Specialist, Latin America and the Caribbean Division, UNFPA, and Ms. Ana Guezmes, Adviser, Country Technical Services Team (CST), Mexico, UNFPA

The population-environment nexus and the MDGs

Chair: Hon. Salwa Masri, Member of Parliament, Jordan

Resource person: Mr. Lester Brown, President, Earth Policy Institute

Rapporteur: Ms. Kiyoko Ikegami, Director, UNFPA Office in Tokyo

The group discussion summaries prepared by each of the rapporteurs are provided in annex II.

CHAPTER X

FOLLOW-UP AND LOOKING AHEAD

Ms. Safiye Cagar, Director, Information, Executive Board and Resource Mobilization Division (IERD), UNFPA, thanked the conference participants for a very dynamic and productive meeting. Looking ahead to the follow-up and next steps, she noted that the Bangkok Statement of Commitment,



Ms. Cagar

coupled with the findings of the 2006 Global Survey and the five regional action plans developed during the conference would help to strategically guide and orient the work that lay ahead for Parliamentarians, national, regional and international organizations, NGOs and civil society. She stated that the next IPCI/ICPD would be convened in three years time and would provide an opportunity to assess what had been accomplished in the intervening years with regard to advancing the ICPD agenda. She concluded by thanking all the participants for their dedication and commitment and expressed deep appreciation to the Government and the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand, other host organizations, funding and support organizations, the speakers and resource persons and all the staff members of AFPPD and UNFPA who had worked hard to ensure the success of the 2006 IPCI/ICPD.

Mr. Shiv Khare, Executive Director, AFPPD, in looking ahead to follow-up and future initiatives was pleased to note the increasing involvement of Parliamentarians in promoting and advancing the ICPD agenda.



Mr. Khare

He identified three key areas for follow-up: (a) the need to expand the involvement of Parliamentarians worldwide, including through increased awareness raising and the provision of user-friendly information, advocacy tools and training; (b) the need to increase and expand the involvement of state and local Parliamentarians in reaching the common people on a wide scale, including at the grassroots level; and (c) given the expanding youth population globally, the need to enhance the involvement and engagement of Parliamentarians in youth-related issues, including adolescent reproductive health. Mr. Khare added that there was also a rise in the number of young persons becoming Parliamentarians and it would be important to engage them in addressing youth-related issues and advancing the ICPD agenda.

The Honourable Khira Lagha Ben Fadhel, Member of Parliament (Tunisia), Chair, FAAPPD, thanked His Majesty, the King of Thailand, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the National Legislative Assembly and the Government



Ms. Lagha Ben Fadhel

Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD) to host the 2009 IPCI/ICPD in Cairo, Egypt, the original site of the landmark 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. She noted that on the occasion of

and people of Thailand for the warm and generous hospitality extended to the participants of the 2006 conference. She announced that it would be a great honour for the Forum of African and Arab

the 15th anniversary of the ICPD it was fitting that the 2009 IPCI/ICPD would be held in Cairo.

In expressing his deep appreciation, the delegate from Egypt stated that it was a great honour that Egypt had been selected to host the 2009 IPCI/ICPD.

During the discussion on follow-up, delegates made a number of suggestions including the following: (a) increase and expand the networking and information exchange among Parliamentarians, particularly with a view to sharing lessons learned, including in such areas as passing laws and policies concerning sensitive issues; (b) increase the support, including financial support, provided to Parliamentarians by partner institutions including UNFPA and NGOs; (c) provide opportunities and venues for Parliamentarians to share their experiences with others; and (d) increase the involvement of men in addressing reproductive health issues.

CHAPTER XI

CLOSING

The meeting formally adopted the Bangkok Statement of Commitment (see Chapter I for the full text of the Statement). Following the adoption of the Bangkok Statement of Commitment, Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit, Chair of the Drafting Committee, thanked the drafting committee members and all the conference participants for their contribution to the success of the 2006 International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

In his closing remarks, the Honourable Yasuo Fukuda, Member of Parliament (Japan) and Chair, AFPPD, thanked all present for their participation. He expressed deep appreciation for the fine work of Dr. Sukavejworakit and Dr. Mary Henry and called for a round of applause. He invited Ms. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA, to present tokens of appreciation to Dr. Sukavejworakit and Dr. Henry. In doing so, Ms. Obaid thanked Dr. Sukavejworakit and Dr. Henry for their contribution to the success of



Mr. Fukuda

the 2006 conference and for their deep and abiding commitment and efforts to support women's rights, including reproductive health and rights. Ms. Obaid concluded by recalling the words from an old Thai ballad that urged all to "be good, be right, be just" – this, she noted, was essential for achieving sustainable development and improving the lives and well being of people around the world.

The Honourable Yasuo Fukuda went on to note that he greatly appreciated the active involvement of all the conference participants, the presenters and the resource persons. He thanked the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand for hosting the 2006 conference. He also thanked the other host organizations and expressed deep gratitude to the Governments of Australia, Canada, Japan, Switzerland, Thailand, as well as the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand, AFPPD, UNESCAP and UNFPA for the funding/support provided for the organization of the 2006 International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

ANNEX I: AGENDA

MONDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER

10:00-22:00 REGISTRATION

15:00-17:00 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

17:30-18:30 BRIEFING FOR CHAIRS, RESOURCE PERSONS AND RAPORTEURS OF THE GROUP

19:30-21:00 WELCOME RECEPTION HOSTED BY PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THAILAND

- Mr. Meechai Ruchupan, President, National Legislative Assembly, Thailand

Launch of UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Population Journal (20th anniversary commemorative issue)

- Mr. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary, UNESCAP
- Ms. Thoraya A. Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA

21:00-22:00 DRAFTING COMMITTEE MEETING



TUESDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER

9:00-10:00 OPENING CEREMONY

1. Welcome Remarks

- Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, MP (Japan) and Chair of AFPPD

- Ms. Thoraya A. Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA

- Mr. Meechai Ruchupan, President, National Legislative Assembly, Thailand

2. Opening Remarks

- Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

10:00-11:00 OPENING SESSION

MC: Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, MP (Japan) and Chair of AFPPD

1. Purpose of the Conference

- Ms. Safiye Cagar, Director, Information, Executive Board and Resource Mobilization Division, UNFPA

2. Video Presentation

3. Keynote Speech

- Mr. Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary, UNESCAP

- Ms. Thoraya A. Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA

- Ms. Gill Greer, Director-General, IPPF

4. Election of Officers

5. Election of Drafting Committee Members

11:00-11:20 COFFEE BREAK

11:20-12:50 SESSION 1

Special Guest Statements: Taking Stock of Progress since Cairo – Role of Parliamentarians in Implementing the Cairo Agenda

Moderator: Mr. Alain Destexhe, Senator (Belgium) and President of PGA

Speakers: (7-minute presentations by a minister from each region and Q & A):

- Mr. Zhang Weiqing, Minister, National Population and Family Planning Commission, China
- Ms. Alicia Muñoz Alá, Minister of Governance, Bolivia
- Ms. Neziha Escheikh, Deputy Minister of Public Health and State Secretary, Tunisia
- Mr. Nassour Guelengdouksia Ouaidou, President of the National Assembly, Chad

12:50-13:00 GROUP PHOTO

13:00-14:30 WELCOME LUNCH HOSTED BY THAI MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- Dr. Mongkol Na Songkhla, Minister of Public Health, Thailand

14:30-16:30 SESSION 2

Group Discussions (per region)

Review Results of the Global Survey on Progress Made since Cairo and Recommend Future Strategies for National and Regional-Level Action

Asia and the Pacific

Africa

Inter-America

Arab States

Inter-Europe

Chairs: A parliamentarian from each region

Resource Persons: Secretariat of AFPPD, FAAPPD, IAPG and EPF

16:30-16:50 COFFEE BREAK

16:50-17:50 SESSION 3

Presentation of the Outcome of Discussion by Each Group

Moderator: Dr. Malinee Sukavejworakit, Secretary General of AFPPD

Presentations by Chairs of the Group Discussions

17:50-18:00 CLOSING OF DAY 1

18:30-20:30 RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFPPD

21:00-22:00 DRAFTING COMMITTEE MEETING



WEDNESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER

8:00-8:45 DRAFTING COMMITTEE MEETING

9:00-10:40 SESSION 4

Group Discussions – approx. 30 parliamentarians in each group

1. Resource Mobilization: Financing the ICPD Agenda and the MDGs

Chair: Ms. Sonia Fertuzinhos, MP

Resource Person: Dr. Joe Speidel, Adjunct Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, University of California San Francisco

2. National Strategies to Achieve Universal Access to Reproductive Health

Chair: Ms. Philomene Fouty-Soungou, MP

Resource Person: Mr. Stan Bernstein, Senior Policy Advisor, Technical Support Division, UNFPA

3. Role of Parliamentarians in Implementing the ICPD Agenda and the MDGs

Chair: Mr. Malcom Washer, MP

Resource Person: Mr. Sultan Aziz, Director, Asia and the Pacific Division, UNFPA

4. Countering challenges to the ICPD agenda

Chair: Ms. Maria Mirtala Lopez Meijia, MP

Resource Person: Mr. Jon O'Brien, Executive Vice-President, Catholics for a Free Choice

5. The Population-Environment Nexus and the MDGs

Chair: Ms. Salwa Masri, MP

Resource Person: Mr. Lester Brown, President, Earth Policy Institute

10:40-11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00-12:00 Session 5

Presentation of the Outcome of Discussion by Each Group

Moderator: Ms. Thelma Kay, Director, Emerging Social Issues Division, UNESCAP
Presentations by Chairs of the Group
Discussions

12:00-13:00 SESSION 6

Discussion on the Draft Statement of Commitment

Moderator: Dr. Mary Henry, Senator (Ireland) and Vice-President of EPF

Introduction of the Draft Statement by Chair of Drafting Committee

13:00-14:30 LUNCH HOSTED BY FOUNDING MEMBER OF AFPPD

Prof. Dr. Prasop Ratanakorn, Honorary Founding Member and Former Secretary General of AFPPD

14:30-15:30 SESSION 7

Discussion on the Draft Statement of Commitment

Moderator: Dr. Mary Henry, Senator (Ireland) and Vice-President of EPF

15:30-16:00 SESSION 8

Discussion on Follow-up

- Ms. Safiye Cagar, Director, IERD, UNFPA
- Mr. Shiv Khare, Executive Director, AFPPD
- Host parliamentary group for the 2008 IPCI/ICPD: Ms. Khira Lagha, MP (Tunisia) and Chair of FAAPPD

16:00-16:30 CLOSING SESSION

1. Adoption of the Statement of Commitment
2. Closing Remarks

Chair of the Conference

ANNEX II: OUTCOME OF THE THEMATIC GROUP DISCUSSIONS

THEME 1: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION: FINANCING THE ICPD AGENDA AND THE MDGS

Chair: Hon. Sonia Fertuzinhos, Member of Parliament, Portugal

Resource person: Dr. Joe Speidel, Adjunct Professor, University of California San Francisco

Rapporteur: Asger Ryhl, Chief, UNFPA Office in Copenhagen

Key issues:

1. Clear decrease in funding for family planning – funds moved towards HIV/AIDS.
2. Lack of clear linkage between reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.
3. Too much donor funding spent on administration – instead funding should go to programme activities and benefit the people.
4. Advocacy efforts must build on clear data and costs (currently very different figures/estimates).
5. Basic health infrastructure not sufficient (need special focus on rural areas).

Required actions:

Members of Parliaments should:

1. Ensure increased advocacy and public awareness in order to link population/reproductive health issues to development in general and ensure that the public knows about the use of development assistance.
2. Ensure that population/reproductive health issues are integrated into donor and national development strategies.
3. Ensure that development assistance focuses on

national priorities based on partnership with national Governments– important that there is national commitment towards reproductive health/family planning.

4. Ensure political commitment and funding to population/reproductive health–linking the ICPD Programme of Action to the MDGs.
5. Ensure that national budgets focus on reproductive health/family planning issues.



THEME 2: NATIONAL STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Chair: Hon. Philomene Fouty-Soungou, Member of Parliament, Congo

Resource person: Mr. Stan Bernstein, Senior Policy Adviser, UNFPA

Rapporteur: Hedi Jamiai, Director, UNFPA Office in Brussels

Key issues:

1. We remain a long distance from universal access to reproductive health. Need for advance planning/various actors to be involved, including private sector and civil society.
2. Processes are more governmental than national. More inclusive processes are needed.
3. Inclusion of monitoring and evaluation frameworks/involvement in international monitoring as an entry point. Need for data and information.
4. Policy commitments are not supported by proper funding and budget support.

Required actions:

Members of Parliaments should:

1. Mobilize and form partnerships in order to scale up. Legislators/Members of Parliament should make sure that all laws on reproductive health, including infant and maternal mortality, are implemented and monitored, and family planning needs to be given higher priority.
2. Prioritize sexual and reproductive health in country strategic papers and all national strategies and financial instruments. Create effective partnerships to achieve this objective through available entry points such as legislation, reporting requirement, hearings and advocacy, etc.
3. Strengthen health systems and give high priority to sexual and reproductive health allocation of specific budget line to finance reproductive health in national budget.
4. Increase exchange of information on successful strategies and work to define international, regional and national monitoring frameworks.
5. Advocate for and support coordinated international leadership for including sexual and reproductive plans in development plans and initiatives.

THEME 3: ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN IMPLEMENTING THE ICPD AGENDA AND THE MDGs

Chair: Hon. Malcolm Washer, Member of Parliament, Australia

Resource person: Mr. Sultan Aziz, Director, Asia and Pacific Division, UNFPA

Rapporteur: Siri Tellier, Director, UNFPA Office in Geneva

Key issues:

1. Limited human, financial capacity of legislatures, limited knowledge of model laws – need to provide precise information on issues related to ICPD and the MDGs.

2. Limited funding for basic services (e.g., health, education) for migrants facing special problems regarding access (and protection) even when services are available to rest of the population.
3. Limited political will and/or opposition, including major issues of cultural/religious opposition; speaking of birth limitation in country coming out of genocide is difficult.
4. Parliamentarians work within limitations, e.g., free expression not always possible, difficult to hold governments accountable.
5. Alienation of young men.
6. Problems women face in access to political power.
7. In some countries coming out of conflict, with large displaced populations, extreme problems, including no legal frameworks.

Required actions:

Members of Parliaments should:

1. Improve facilitating legislative/legal environment to reflect ICDP agenda, e.g., in poverty reduction-related laws and policies. Monitor their implementation at national/local level. In this, work together with local organizations (especially, NGOs, for example, women lawyers) and share ideas amongst countries at regional level to speed up process. Need UNFPA assistance to do this.
2. Ensure that agenda is accepted across political parties. Work with cultural leaders, need to bring in men into the discussion, especially on dialogue on violence against women.
3. Create networks at various levels—international, or national, including thematic within national parliaments, or parliamentary unions and associations. Have ICPD issues on the agenda of the meetings of such fora. UNFPA or others could make presentations at those meetings. Develop solidarity amongst parliamentarians as they face opposition. Sometimes other countries can say things that nationals cannot.
4. Develop tools to help accountability including accountability of the participants in this meeting, but also to hold governments responsible.

5. Develop mechanisms to strengthen sharing information, best practices on legal reform, etc UNFPA assistance would be valuable.
6. Utilize media to raise awareness about MDGs and ICPD. Assistance required in this area, for e.g., precise and user-friendly information and model articles are needed.
7. Advocate for peace – advocate for women, children, and the aged.

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THEME 4: COUNTERING CHALLENGES TO THE ICPD AGENDA

Chair: Hon. Maria Mirtala Lopez Meija, Member of Parliament, El Salvador

Resource person: Mr. Jon O’Brien, Executive Vice-President, Catholics for a Free Choice

Rapporteurs: Mr. Eduardo Mangas, Programme Specialist, Latin America and the Caribbean Division, UNFPA and Ms. Ana Guezmes, Adviser, Country Technical Services Team (CST), Mexico, UNFPA

Key issues:

1. The hostility to the ICPD has focused its strategies on sexual and reproductive health and gender policies.
2. Public opinion is manipulated by groups hostile to family planning and women’s rights. They use a variety of arguments and tactics, confusing public opinion through the tendentious use of terminology and “research” findings to support their points of view. Using this strategy they present themselves with purportedly scientific arguments as “defenders” of cultural identity and social and family values, gaining in many cases important but often misled public support.
3. There is a close relationship between conservative groups’ ability to influence public policies and weak democracies.
4. The separation of church and state is becoming an important issue in developing and developed countries.

5. ICPD is facing a religious and cultural opposition around the world. Extremists manipulate cultural arguments to foster hostility to the ICPD mandate. Many crimes against women –including by intimate partners-- persist in many societies, based on cultural and/or religious grounds.
6. There is a significant gap between existing legislation and public policies and their effective implementation due to lack of political will and financial support, and sometimes to cultural factors.

Required actions:

Parliamentarians should:

1. Be better advocates for ICPD. Parliamentarians should take back some language that the hostile groups have hijacked to smear ICPD as being against the family. Parliamentarians should speak as pro-life and in defence of women, families, and human rights, which is what the ICPD mandate actually is. Hostile groups should be called by progressive groups not as pro-life groups but as anti-human rights groups.
2. Promote training for judicial officials on gender and reproductive rights. The judicial systems play a significant role to guarantee ICPD implementation, in particular in issues related to reproductive health and rights and gender equality, not only in the every day activities of the administration of justice but also when the legality or constitutionality of some policies and laws have to be resolved by the Supreme Courts.
3. Build and/or strengthen alliances with media and civil society organizations, especially women’s networks. Parliamentarians can receive valuable support from NGOs in their daily parliamentary activities, especially from advocacy and research organizations that could provide simple and effective arguments during the discussion of important legislation related to ICPD. With this support, their communication skills could also be greatly improved in promoting the ICPD agenda with the general public.
4. Involve more religious, social, cultural and political leaders in promoting the ICPD agenda.

The open-minded persons within religious groups can be important allies in ICPD promotion and defence. Authoritative religious information and materials in support of the ICPD mandate should also be available for members of parliaments.

5. Engage the private sector- including the elite economic sector, in activities related to ICPD implementation. In some countries these groups are influenced by misinformation to promoting and funding hostile groups to the ICPD.
6. Promote the linkage between the ICPD mandate, human rights and democracy. Separation of church and state should be promoted at the country and international levels, including intergovernmental organizations.
7. Promote regional information and communication strategies on the ICPD mandate. Parliamentarians could promote educational programmes in government-owned media, including in national budgets/financial support for the production of educational soap operas or TV programmes on ICPD. Parliamentarians should also promote and facilitate the inclusion of public service announcements on ICPD issues in the private media.

Parliamentarians asked that:

8. UNFPA and the United Nations country teams should have an active role, in accordance with their mandates or remits, in the defence of the ICPD at the country level when parliamentarians are facing controversy on proposed legislation.
9. Their counterparts from the developed countries should utilize their financial oversight

role to ensure gender mainstreaming in official development assistance programmes and their effective implementation.



THEME 5: THE POPULATION-ENVIRONMENT NEXUS AND THE MDGs

Chair: Hon. Salwa Masri, Member of Parliament, Jordan

Resource person: Mr. Lester Brown, President, Earth Policy Institute

Rapporteur: Ms. Kiyoko Ikegami, Director, UNFPA Office in Tokyo

Key issues:

1. Population growth and sustainable development.
2. Global warming.
3. Dependency on oil.
4. Water scarcity and conflict.
5. Role of conflict in environmental deterioration.
6. Issue between environment and sustainability.
7. Greed and over-consumption.

Required actions:

1. Stabilize population as a security issue.
2. Reduce oil dependency.
3. Create awareness regarding population, development and environment linkages.

ANNEX III: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

DELEGATES

Algeria

Hon. Nouredine Benbraham, MP

Argentina

Hon. Senator Maria Cristina Perceval

Australia

Hon. Senator Claire Moore

Hon. Senator Malcolm Washer

Hon. Senator Ruth Webber

Austria

Hon. Karl Ollinger, MP

Azerbaijan

Hon. Rabiyyat Aslanova, MP

Hon. Malahat Hasanova, MP

Bahrain

Hon. Fakhria Shaban Ghulem Diari, MP

Belgium

Hon. Senator Alain Destexhe

Hon. Hilde Vautmans, MP

Belize

Hon. Sylvia Flores, MP

Benin

Hon. Leon Bio Bigou, MP

Bhutan

Hon. Passang Dem, MP

Hon. Tshewang Dorji, MP

Hon. Dasho Rinzin Gyaltshen, MP

Hon. Nimo Wangdi, MP

Bolivia

H.E. Alicia Munoz Ala

Minister of Governance

Hon. Javier Eduardo Zavaleta, MP

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Hon. M.D. Milorad Zivkovic, MP

Brazil

Hon. Telma Sandra De Souza, MP

Bulgaria

Hon. Antonia Stefanova Parvanova, MP

Burkina Faso

Hon. Mamadou Christophe Ouattara, MP

Burundi

Hon. Pascasie Nkinahamira, MP

Hon. Jean Marie Rugira, MP

Cambodia

Hon. Sudary Khuon, MP

Hon. Sour Phirith Kim, MP

Hon. Senator Si Chan Pum

Cameroon

Hon. Angeline Evina Ndo Engolo, MP

Canada

Hon. Senator Rose Marie Losier-Cool

Hon. Yvan Loubier, MP

China

H.E. Zhang Weiqing
Minister, National Population and Family
Planning Commission

Cape Verde

Hon. Jean Emmanuel da Cruz, MP

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