Biographies of Participants
I. MEMBERS/SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT AND MINISTERS

Afghanistan

Hon. Ms. Golalai Nur Safi
Member of Parliament
Chairperson of the National Committee on Population and Development

Hon. Ms. Golalai Nur Safi is a Member of Parliament in the Lower House of the National Assembly of Afghanistan. She is an eye physician by profession at the Noor Hospital, and also serves as Coordinator of Medical Programs in the Medica Mondiale Organization. She is currently on her fifteenth term in the Lower House.

Hon. Mr. Haji Mohammad Abduh
Member of Parliament

Hon. Mr. Haji Mohammad Abduh is a Member of Parliament in the National Assembly of Afghanistan, representing the Balkh Province. He serves as the Head for Justice Affairs, Judgement and Administrative Reforms.

Hon. Ms. Shukria Eisa Khel
Member of Parliament

Hon. Ms. Shukria Eisa Khel is a Member of Parliament in the National Assembly of Afghanistan with over 20 years of experience working in various government organs. She served as the representative of the Baghlan people in the Emergency Loyee Jirga in 2002, among various other capacities.

Australia

Hon. Mrs. Ann Sudmalis
Member of Parliament
Vice Chairperson of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)
Chairperson of Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development

Hon. Mrs. Ann Sudmalis serves as Member of Parliament, representing the Division of Gilmore in New South Wales. She is also the current Chair of the Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and
Development. Hon. Mrs. Sudmalis has been a Member of the Liberal Party since 2006 and is currently a Member of the Coalition Policy Committees for Education, Defence and Veterans Affairs, Infrastructure and Regional Development. Apart from being an advocate to improve local projects, she has the parliamentary responsibilities of a Committee Member on the Parliamentary Education Office Advisory Committee, Joint Standing Committees of Education and Employment, and the Standing Health Committee.

Bangladesh

**Hon. Dr. A.F.M. Ruhal Haque**  
*Member of Parliament*  
*Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Science and Technology*

Hon. Dr. A.F.M. Ruhal Haque is a Member of Parliament representing Bangladesh Awami League. He is a medical doctor by profession, and has served under various capacities in the health sector of Bangladesh. Hon. Dr. Haque was the former Minister of Health and Family Welfare from 2009 to 2013 and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Science and Technology. He is an active supporter of women’s rights and gender equality, and continuously works towards it in Bangladesh.

**Hon. Mrs. Salina Begum**  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mrs. Salina Begum is a Member of Parliament representing the Bangladesh Awami League, where she serves as President. She is a Member of the Condemnation Committee (2016–2019) of the Bangladesh Medical Research Council. Hon. Mrs. Begum strives towards the socio-economic development of women in Bangladesh through various initiatives, such as the development of Small Cottage Industries, sensitization and training programmes for women, and improving educational opportunities for girls and women.

**Hon. Mrs. Sanjida Khanam**  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mrs. Sanjida Khanam is a Member of Parliament representing the Bangladesh Awami League. She is also a Member of the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Home. She has been practicing law in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh since 1991 and has over 25 years of experience in handling matters related to general civil litigation, corporate commercial litigation and alternative dispute resolution across various sectors.
H.E. Mr. Jigme Zangpo
Speaker of Parliament

H.E. Mr. Jigme Zangpo has been elected as the Speaker of the National Assembly in the Second Parliament since 2013. He represents the Mongar Constituency in Eastern Bhutan. He served as Drangpon (judge) at the High Court, Royal Court of Justice in Thimphu from 2006 to 2010 and as Secretary General of the National Assembly from 2003 to 2006. He also served as the Governor of Bumthang and Paro Dzongkhags from 1997 to 2003, as well as the Deputy Project Director, Inspector of Schools, District Education Officer, and Head Teacher and Teacher from 1970 to 1997 in the Ministry of Education. During the long service, he was appointed as a Member of Commissions in the Royal Civil Service Commission, Planning Commission, and the Chair of the Dzongkhag Development Tshogchung.

Hon. Ms. Kinley Om
Member of Parliament

Hon. Ms. Kinley Om is a Member of Parliament of the National Assembly of Bhutan belonging to the People's Democratic Party. She is currently the Deputy Chair to the Human Rights Committee and the Legislative Committee of the Parliament. Hon. Ms. Om is a strong advocate for women’s empowerment in Bhutan.

Hon. Mr. Nidup Zangpo
Member of Parliament

Hon. Mr. Nidup Zangpo is a Member of Parliament of the National Assembly of Bhutan belonging to the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa Party. He is currently on the Social and Cultural Committee and the Good Governance Committee of the Parliament. Hon. Mr. Zangpo is an advocate for equal rights of women and children. He played an active role in the enactment of Child Care and Protection Act 2010, adoption of Domestic Violence Act 2009 and paid maternity leave extension from three to six months in 2016.
Cambodia

H.E. Mrs. Lork Kheng  
*Member of Parliament  
*Treasurer of AFPPD*

H.E. Mrs. Lork Kheng serves as Member of Parliament representing the Cambodian People’s Party. She has started her position in the Commission on Public Health and Women Affairs, followed by the Commission on Finance and Auditing, and the Commission on Human Rights. H.E. Mrs. Keng was also the Treasurer of the Phnom Penh branch of the Cambodian Red Cross, and has now become its Deputy President. Prior to her political career, H.E. Mrs. Kheng was a successful business woman in the areas of construction and education. She has established the Eye Care Optic Center, which was the leading company in the optic business in Cambodia. She has actively promoted social well-being campaigns around the suburbs of Phnom Penh and achieved significant results in reducing HIV/AIDS rates.

People’s Republic of China

Hon. Dr. Wang Longde  
*Member of Parliament  
*Vice Chairperson of AFPPD*

Hon. Dr. Wang Longde serves as Member of Parliament, Vice-Chair of AFPPD and Co-Chair of AFPPD’s Standing Committee of Active Ageing. Hon. Dr. Wang has experience on and demonstrated commitment for health, family planning and healthy ageing, and plays a significant leadership role in public health in China. He is currently a Member of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of the People's Republic of China, the Chief Committee Member of the National Expert Guidance Committee on Health Promotion and Health Education, the Deputy Director of the Stroke Control Project Committee, and Consultant of Science and Technology Innovation of the National Health and Family Planning Commission of the People’s Republic of China. Hon. Dr. Wang was formerly Vice Minister of the Ministry of Health, China.

Hon. Dr. Liu Depei  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Dr. Liu Depei is a Member of the Eleventh and Twelfth Session of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress. He also serves as a Member of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee. Hon. Dr. Liu has been the Director of the State Key Laboratory of Medical Molecular Biology of China since 2004, the Vice President of the Chinese Medical Association since 2010, and the Chairman of the Division of Medical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology since 2011.
Cook Islands

Hon. Ms. Vainetutai Rose Brown
Member of Parliament


Hon. Mr. Toka Hagai
Member of Parliament

Hon. Mr. Toka Hagai is a Member of Parliament, representing the Cook Islands Party. He is currently in his first term from the election in 2014, also serving as the Government Whip of Parliament. Hon. Mr. Hagai serves as Member of the Family Law Bill, Special Select Committee 2015–2017, and the Crimes Bill 2017, Special Select Committee 2017.

India

Hon. Professor P.J. Kurien
Member of Parliament
Vice Chairperson of AFPPD
Chairperson of IAPPD

Hon. Professor P. J. Kurien has served as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of the Indian Parliament since 2012. He is one of the longest serving office bearers of AFPPD with Union Cabinet Minister status. Hon. Professor Kurien also serves as Chairman of the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, which is AFPPD’s National Committee member in India. He is a well-known champion on the ICPD/MDGs/SDGs issues. Hon. Professor Kurien is a Member of the Indian National Congress Party and has previously worked as the Union Minister from 1991 to 1993 in the Government, and as Union Minister for Non-Conventional Energy from 1994 to 1995.

Hon. Mr. Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu
Member of Parliament

Hon. Mr. Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu is a Member of Parliament, belonging to Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of the Parliament since 2012. He has been associated with the Indian National Congress since 1994 and the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee since 1995, under various capacities. Hon. Mr. Rapolu has a background in journalism, and is author to several books in Telugu.
Indonesia

Hon. Dr. Ayub Khan  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Dr. Ayub Khan serves as Member of Parliament, representing the Demokrat Party. He is a Member of the Health, Labor and Population Committee. From 2009 to 2014, he was the Chairman of the Democratic Party Legislative Council. Hon. Ds. Khan is strongly interested in promoting family planning with the theme, "two children are enough." He has been involved in campaigning for the "Village Family Planning," a collaboration between Commission IX of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and the Family Planning Coordinating Board of the Republic of Indonesia.

Hon. Ms. Sri Wulan  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Ms. Sri Wulan serves as Member of Parliament, representing the Great Indonesia Movement Party Faction. Hon. Ms. Wulan was a former legislator in the Central Java provincial parliament from 2009 to 2014. She was tasked in Commission IV responsible for agriculture, plantations, maritime affairs, fisheries and food, and was moved to Commission IX, responsible for demographic affairs, health, manpower and transmigration.

Hon. Ms. Andi Fauziah Pujiwatie Hatta  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Ms. Andi Fauziah Pujiwatie Hatta serves as Member of Parliament representing the Fraksi Partai Golkar Party for South Sulawesi III. By profession, Hon. Ms. Hatta is a dentist and has worked at the Katobengke community health center in Bau-Bau from 2008 to 2009. For the period, 2014–2019, she has been tasked in Commission IX, responsible for demographic affairs, health, manpower and transmigration.

Hon. Mr. Marinus Gea  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Marinus Gea is a Member of Parliament of the House of Representatives, Republic of Indonesia. He belongs to the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle.
Hon. Dr. Abdolreza Azizi
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Dr. Abdolreza Azizi is the Chair of the Social Commission of the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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Hon. Dr. Mohammad Vahdati Helan
*Member of Parliament*
*Chairperson, IRPPDC*

Hon. Dr. Mohammad Vahdati Helan is a Member of Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He serves as a Member of the Social Commission of the Parliament and as Chairman of the Senior Committee. Hon. Dr. Helan also serves as the Chairperson of the re-activated Iranian Parliamentarians on Population and Development Committee.

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Hon. Mr. Masood Rezaei
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Masood Rezaei is a Member of the Social Commission of the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi
*Member of Parliament*
*Chairperson of AFPPD*

Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi is a Member of the House of Councillors in Japan, and former Senior Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare. Hon. Professor Takemi is currently AFPPD’s Chairperson and Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Active Ageing. He is one of 25 eminent advocates appointed by the United Nations to the High-Level Task Force for the International Conference on Population and Development. Hon. Professor Takemi has also served as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He was involved in various global initiatives, including the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women’s and Children's Health (2010–2011); World Health Organization Expert Working Group on R&D Financing (2009–2010); Global Health Workforce Alliance (2010–present); and the International Organizing Committee of the Prince Mahidol Award.
Conference (2009–present). In April 2016, Hon. Professor Takemi co-hosted the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (GCPPD) toward the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit. He spearheaded the adoption of the GCPPD Declaration and Recommendations to the G7 Summit, which greatly contributed to the G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration and the Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health.

Kazakhstan

Hon. Mr. Shavkhat Utemissov  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Shavkhat Utemissov was first time elected to the Lower House of the Parliament in 2007. He is currently a Member of the Parliament Standing Committee on environment and natural resources utilization. Prior to his parliamentary role, Hon. Mr. Utemisov served as the Deputy Head of the local administration in the Akzhaik District of Western Kazakhstan from 2006 to 2007. Prior to this, he held various managerial positions in local administrations.

Hon. Ms. Irina Petrovna Aronova  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Ms. Irina Petrovna Aronova is currently the Secretary of the Committee of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of the Parliament of Kazakhstan.

Kyrgyzstan

Hon. Mr. Osmonbek Artykbaev  
*Chairperson of NCKPD*

Hon. Mr. Osmonbek Artykbaev is Chairperson of NCKPD. He was elected as a Member of Parliament for the second time in October 2015 representing the Social Democratic Party while his first term was in 2005–2010. From 2010 to 2011 and from 2013 to 2014, Hon. Mr. Artykbaev served as Minister of Energy. Prior to his political career, he worked as Director General of some prominent Kyrgyz private companies. Hon. Mr. Artykbaev also has the official state rank, “State Counselor of 2nd Class.” Some of his achievements include his direct involvement in passing the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On HIV/AIDS” (2005); a new version of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Reproductive Rights" (2007); the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the enrichment of baking flour" (2009); and "On State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women" (2008).
Hon. Mr. Abdimuktar Mamatov  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Abdimuktar Mamatov serves as Member of Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic. He was elected into the Political Socialist Party, Ata-Meken for the first time in October 2010 as Deputy of the Jogorku Kenesh of the fifth convocation. He was elected for a second time in January 2016. Hon. Mr. Mamatov holds a class rank of "State Counselor of Public Service of the III class."

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Hon. Ms. Aida Ismailova  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Ms. Aida Ismailova has served as Member of Parliament of the sixth convocation, representing the political party, Republic-Ata Jurt since 2015. She is a Member of the Committee on Social Issues, Education, Science, Culture and Health. Hon. Ms. Ismailova began her professional career in 2000 through her work with foreign investors in Kyrgyzstan. From 2011 to 2013, she had worked as a regional representative of the Korean company, PARK8 OPC in Kyrgyzstan, and was engaged in other private business until 2015.

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**Lao People’s Democratic Republic**

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Hon. Mr. Alounxai Sounnalath  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Alounxai Sounnalath is a Member of the National Assembly of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. He also serves as the Deputy Secretary General of the Lao People’s Revolutionary Youth Union.

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Hon. Mr. Bountem Souangsa Nhavong  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Bountem Souangsa Nhavong is a Member of the National Assembly of Lao PDR.
Nepal

Hon. Mrs. Mahalaxmi Dina Upadhyay
Member of Parliament
State Minister of Water Resource
Chairperson of NFPPD
Co-Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Investing in Youth

Hon. Mrs. Mahalaxmi Dina Upadhyay is a Member of Parliament representing the Nepali Congress. She also serves as the President of the Community and Women Development Center (CWDC), Chairperson of the National Forum of Parliamentarians for Population and Development, Nepal, and Co-Chair of the AFPPD Standing Committee on Investing in Youth. Previously, she was a Member of the Drafting Committee of Constitution on Fundamental Rights and Directive Principle. Hon. Mrs. Upadhyay has a strong interest in social and development issues. She has extensive training on HIV/AIDS/STI awareness; non-formal education; leadership development and women; skill management and market management; safe motherhood and reproductive health; and community development and sanitation.

Hon. Mr. Dhani Ram Paudel
Member of Parliament

Hon. Mr. Dhani Ram Paudel is a Member of Parliament representing the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Canter (CPN-MC). He is the Vice-Chairperson of NFPPD. He served as the Minister of Education from August 2016 to June 2017. He is one of the Central Committee Members of CPN-MC. His political career started from 1994. Hon Mr. Paudel is currently serving as a Member of the Women, Children, Senior Citizens and Social Welfare Committee of the Legislature-Parliament.

Pakistan

Hon. Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi
Deputy Speaker of Parliament

Hon. Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi has been elected as Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan in June 2013. Prior to this, Hon. Mr. Abbasi was elected as Member of the National Assembly on the ticket of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) in the 2008 election. He was also elected as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Narcotic Control of the National Assembly and successfully discharged his responsibilities and parliamentary functions in accordance with the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly.
Hon. Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam is a Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, representing the Punjab Province. She has been in office since 2013.

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Hon. Mr. Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqoob  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqoob is a Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, belonging to the Jamaat-e-Islami Party. He has over 35 years of experience in politics, with vast expertise in national, regional and international issues.

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Hon. Ms. Farhana Qamar  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Ms. Farhana Qamar is a Member of Parliament of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) in the National Assembly of Pakistan. She was first elected as a member of the National Assembly for a reserved seat for women from Punjab in the Pakistani General Election in 2013.

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**Philippines**

*Member of Parliament*  
Vice-Chair of AFPPD  
Chairperson of PLCPD

Hon. Rep. Teodoro B. Baguilat, Jr. serves as Member of Parliament, representing the Liberal Party of the Philippines. He is the Chairperson of the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) in the lower chamber of Congress. Most notable of PLCPD's work was the passage of the Responsible Parenthood Law. Hon. Rep. Baguilat, Jr. is one of the few members of the Congress who are vocal against extra-judicial killings and the reinstatement of the death penalty. He has advocated for the protection and promotion of indigenous people's rights, welfare, and privileges; the protection of the environment; transparency and accountability in the government; women's and children's rights; agrarian reform; and food security, among others.
Hon. Rep. Dante Antonio L. Tinio  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Rep. Dante Antonio L. Tinio is a Member of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Philippines, belonging to the ACT Teachers Party. He is a teacher by profession, with a long record of advocacy for teachers, education workers, and marginalized sectors of Philippine society. Hon. Rep. Tinio is the co-author of the *Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012* and the *Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act*.

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**Sri Lanka**

**Hon. Mr. Karu Jayasuriya**  
*Speaker of the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka*

Hon. Mr. Karu Jayasuriya is a Member of Parliament, representing the Gampaha District, and has been the Speaker of Parliament of Sri Lanka since 2015. As Speaker, Hon. Mr. Jayasuriya also acts as Chairman of the Constitutional Council. Previously, he served as Mayor of Colombo (1997–1999), Minister of Power and Energy (2001–2004), Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs (2007–2008), and Minister of Buddha Sasana, Public Administration and Democratic Governance (2015).

**Hon. Mr. S.B. Dissanayake**  
*Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare and Kandyan Heritage of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka*

Hon. Mr. S. B. Dissanayake is a Member of the United People’s Freedom Alliance (UPFA) and Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare. Hon. Mr. Dissanayake is a Member of the Committee of Public Accounts of the Sri Lankan Parliament. He has served in various cabinet positions, such as Cabinet Minister of Higher Education and Cabinet Minister of Samurdhi and Agriculture. His earlier political career includes: Member of the Communist Party in Sri Lanka from 1970 to 1979; President of the Inter-University Students’ Federation from 1972 to 1974; President of the Student Council of the Vidyodaya University from 1972 to 1974; and President of the Sri Lanka National Student Council from 1974 to 1976.

**Hon. Mr. Thilanga Sumathipala**  
*Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka*

Hon. Mr. Thilanga Sumathipala is a Member of Parliament, representing the Colombo District, and currently the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka. Previously, he served as Deputy Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training. Hon. Mr. Sumathipala is also the Chairman of the Thimbirigasingaya Divisional Secretariat Development Coordination Committee and the
Managing Director of one of the largest private corporate groups of companies in Sri Lanka.

**Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama**  
*Minister of Special Assignments*

Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama is the Minister of Special Assignments. Prior to the current position, Hon. Dr. Amunugama held several positions, including Minister of Higher Education and Research, and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning. He is a Member of Parliament from the Kandy District for the United People's Freedom Alliance.

**Hon. Mr. Mangala Samaraweera**  
*Minister of Finance and Mass Media*

Hon. Mr. Mangala Samaraweera is a Member of Parliament from the UNP Party. He is currently the Minister of Finance and Mass Media, appointed in 2017. He previously held the position of Foreign Minister for two terms from 2005 to 2007 and 2015 to 2017.

**Hon. Mr. Wasantha Aluwihare**  
*State Minister of Agriculture*

Hon. Mr. Wasantha Aluwihare is a Member of Parliament, belonging to the United National Party. He is the current State Minister of Agriculture, and previously served as Chief Minister of the Central Province of Sri Lanka. He also served as the Deputy Minister of Mahaweli Development and Environment.

**Hon. Dr. Sudarshani Fernandopulle**  
*State Minister of City Planning and Water Supply*

Hon. Dr. Sudarshani Fernandopulle serves as Member of Parliament representing the UPFA. She is also a Member of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party Central Committee and Head of its Women’s Front. Hon. Dr. Fernandopulle is a specialist in public health who has served the Government of Sri Lanka for 24 years. Previously, Hon. Dr. Fernandopulle served at the Family Health Bureau (Ministry of Health), which was responsible for the maternal, child health and family planning programme in Sri Lanka. She has also worked as the State Minister for City Planning and Water Supply and was appointed as Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Research in 2015.
In 2016, Hon. Dr. Fernandopulle participated in AFPPD’s 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference.

**Hon. Mr. Eswarapatham Saravanapavan**  
*Member of Parliament*  
*Deputy Chairperson, SLPPD*

Hon. Mr. Eswarapatham Saravanapavan serves as Member of Parliament, representing the Illankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi Party. He is involved with the Committee on Privileges, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment, and the Select Committee of Parliament on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, among others. Hon. Mr. Saravanapavan is also the Managing Director of the Uthayan daily Tamil newspaper, being printed and published in Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka, and Sudar Oli daily Tamil newspaper, being printed and published in Colombo.

**Hon. Mr. Tilak Marapana**  
*Member of Parliament*  
*Minister of Development Assignments and Minister of Foreign Affairs*

Hon. Mr. Tilak Marapana is a Member of Parliament representing the United National Party. He serves as the Minister of Development Assignments and Minister of Foreign Affairs. He is also a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Privileges. Hon. Mr. Marapana is an attorney-at-law by profession.

**Hon. Mr. Dilan Perera**  
*Member of Parliament State Minister of Highways*

Hon. Mr. Dilan Perera serves as a Member of Parliament representing the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) for the Badulla District and as State Minister of Highways. He is a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and the Parliamentary Committee on Privileges, among others. Previously, Hon. Mr. Perera was a Member of the Provincial Council (1988–1993), the Opposition Leader of the Uva Provincial Council (1993–1994), Deputy Minister of Justice (2005–2007), and Deputy Minister of Public Administration (2009–2010).

**Hon. Mr. Lakshman Senewiratne**  
*Member of Parliament*  
*State Minister of Science, Technology and Research*

Hon. Mr. Lakshman Senewiratne serves as a Member of Parliament representing the UPFA for the Badulla District, and as State Minister of Science, Technology and Research. He is involved with the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development, and the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage, among others. Hon. Mr. Senewiratne previously served as the Cabinet Minister of Sugar Industries.
Hon. Mr. Dayasiri Jayasekara
Member of Parliament
Minister of Sports

Hon. Mr. Dayasiri Jayasekara is a Member of Parliament representing the UPFA from Kurunegala District. He currently serves as the Minister of Sports. Hon. Mr. Jayasekara is an attorney-at-law by profession.

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Hon. Mr. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa
Member of Parliament
Minister of Disaster Management

Hon. Mr. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa is a Member of Parliament, with nearly 30 years of experience. He represents the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. He has held several Cabinet portfolios since including the Minister of Environment, Minister of Petroleum Industries, and is currently serving as the Minister of Disaster Management. Hon. Mr. Yapa is an attorney-at-law by profession.

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Hon. Mrs. Chandrani Bandara
Member of Parliament
Minister of Women and Child Affairs

Hon. Mrs. Chandrani Bandara is a Member of Parliament from the United National Party (UNP), representing the Anuradhapura District. She currently serves as the Minister of Women and Child Affairs.

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Hon. Mrs. Thalatha Athukorala
Member of Parliament
Minister of Foreign Employment and Minister of Justice

Hon. Mrs. Thalatha Athukorala is a Member of Parliament from the UNP. She represents the Ratnapura District and currently serves as the Minister of Foreign Employment and Minister of Justice. Hon. Mrs. Athukorala is an attorney-at-law by profession.
Hon. Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen  
*Member of Parliament  
Minister of Industry and Commerce*

Hon. Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen is a Member of Parliament from the UNP, representing the Vanni District. He currently serves as the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Hon. Mr. Bathiudeen is a civil engineer by profession.

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Hon. Mr. T.B. Ekanayake  
*Member of Parliament  
State Minister of Lands*

Hon. Mr. T.B. Ekanayake is a Member of Parliament from the UPFA. He represents the Kurunegala District, and is currently serving as State Minister of Lands.

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Hon. Mr. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardana  
*Member of Parliament  
State Minister of Public Enterprise Development*

Hon. Mr. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardana is a Member of Parliament from the UPFA Party. He serves as the State Minister of Public Enterprise Development. Hon. Mr. Abeywardana is a landed proprietor by profession.

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Hon. Mr. Eran Wickramarathne  
*Member of Parliament  
State Minister of Finance*

Hon. Mr. Eran Wickramarathne is a Member of Parliament from the UNP, representing Colombo District. He currently serves as the State Minister of Finance.
**Hon. Mr. Niroshan Perera**  
*Member of Parliament*  
*State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs*

Hon. Mr. Niroshan Perera is a Member of Parliament from the UNP, representing the Puttalam District. He currently serves as the State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs. Hon. Mr. Perera is an engineer by profession.

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**Hon. Mrs. Vijayakala Maheshwaran**  
*Member of Parliament*  
*State Minister of Child Affairs*

Hon. Mrs. Vijayakala Maheshwaran is a Member of Parliament from UNP representing the Jaffna District. She currently serves as the State Minister of Child Affairs. Hon. Mrs. Maheshwaran has been involved in politics since 1999.

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**Hon. Mr. M.L.A.M. Hizbullah**  
*Member of Parliament*  
*State Minister of Rehabilitation and Resettlement*

Hon. Mr. M.L.A.M. Hizbullah is a Member of Parliament from the UPFA. He serves as the State Minister of Rehabilitation and Resettlement. Hon. Mr. Hizbullah is a businessman by profession.

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**Hon. Mr. Ashoka Abeysinghe**  
*Member of Parliament*  
*Deputy Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation*

Hon. Mr. Ashoka Abeysinghe is a Member of Parliament from the UNP, representing the Kurunegala Party. He currently serves as the Deputy Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation.
Hon. Mr. Karunarathne Paranawithana  
*Member of Parliament*  
*Deputy Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training*

Hon. Mr. Karunarathne Paranawithana is a Member of Parliament from the UNP, representing the Ratnapura District. He serves as the Deputy Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training.

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Hon. Mr. Lasantha Alagiyawanna  
*Member of Parliament*  
*Deputy Minister of Finance and Media*

Hon. Mr. Lasantha Alagiyawanna is a Member of Parliament from the UPFA, representing the Gampaha District. He serves as the Deputy Minister of Finance and Media. Hon. Mr. Alagiyawanna is a teacher by profession.

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Hon. Mr. Harsha De Silva  
*Member of Parliament*  
*Deputy Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs*

Hon. Mr. Harsha De Silva is a Member of Parliament from the UNP, representing the Colombo District. He serves as the Deputy Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs. Hon. Mr. De Silva is an economist by profession.

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Hon. Mrs. Thusitha Wijemanna  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mrs. Thusitha Wijemanna is a Member of Parliament from the UNP, representing the Kegalle District. She is a medical practitioner by profession.
Hon. Dr. Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana

*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Dr. Kavinda Heshan Jayawardana is a Member of Parliament of the UNP, representing the Gampaha District.

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Hon. Mr. Harshana Rajakaruna

*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Harshana Rajakaruna is a Member of Parliament of the UNP, representing the Gampaha District.

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Hon. Mr. Muthu Sivalingam

*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Muthu Sivalingam is a Member of Parliament of the UPFA, representing the Nuwara – Eliya District. He is a trade unionist by profession.

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Hon. Mr. Ishak Rahuman

*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Ishak Rahuman is a Member of Parliament of the UNP, representing the Anuradhapura District.
Hon. Mrs. Sriyani Wijewickrama  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mrs. Sriyani Wijewickrama is a Member of Parliament of the UPFA, representing the Digamadulla District. She is an attorney-at-law by profession.

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Hon. Mr. Malith Jayathilake  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Malith Jayathilake is a Member of Parliament of the UPFA.

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Hon. Mr. J. C. Alawathuwala  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. J. C. Alawathuwala is a Member of Parliament of the UNP, representing the Kurunegala District.

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Hon. Mr. K. Kader Masthan  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. K. Kader Masthan is a Member of Parliament of the UPFA, representing the Vanni District.
Hon. Mr. Hector Appuhamy  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Hector Appuhamy is a Member of Parliament of the UNP, representing the Puttalam District. He is a businessman by profession.

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Hon. Mr. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri is a Member of Parliament of the UNP, representing the Monaragala District. He is currently a company director.

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Hon. Mr. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana is a Member of Parliament of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, representing the Batticaloa District.

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Hon. Mr. Velu Kumar  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Velu Kumar is a Member of Parliament of the UNP, representing the Mahanuwara District.
Hon. Mr. Angajan Ramanathan  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Angajan Ramanathan is a Member of Parliament of the UPFA.

Hon. Mrs. Shanthi Sriskandarasa  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mrs. Shanthi Sriskandarasa is a Member of Parliament of the Illankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi Party.

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**Tajikistan**

Hon. Mrs. Lutfiya Rajabova  
*Member of Parliament*

*Chairman, Committee of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan on Science, Education, Culture and Youth Policy*

Hon. Mrs. Lutfiya Rajabova is a Member of Parliament and serves as the Chairman of the Committee of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan on Science, Education, Culture and Youth Policy.

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**Thailand**

Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont  
*Member of Parliament*

*Secretary-General of AFPPD*

*Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Health of the National Legislative Assembly*

Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont has served as the Secretary-General of AFPPD since 2014. He is a medical doctor and has been working on health issues as a legislator. In his capacity as the current Chairperson of Thailand's National Legislative Assembly's Public Health Committee, as well as AFPPD's Secretary-General, Hon. Dr. Sirathranont has led the advocacy efforts to enact the Prevention and Remedial Measures for Adolescent Pregnancy Act
in 2016. Hon. Dr. Sirathranont has served twice as Member of the Senate of Thailand from 2008 to 2011 and from 2011 to 2014.

Vietnam

**Hon. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Mai**  
*Member of Parliament*  
*Vice-Chair and Secretary-General of AFPPD*

Hon. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Mai currently serves as Member of the National Assembly and Vice Chairperson Vietnam Parliamentary Committee on Social Affairs. He is also an Executive Committee Member of AFPPD. Previously, he served as Director of the Department for Social Affairs at the Vietnam National Assembly Office from 2012 to 2016, and Deputy Director of the same from 2004 to 2012. From 1991 to 1995, he was a Researcher of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh ideology.

**Hon. Mr. Dinh Cong Sy**  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mr. Dinh Cong Sy serves as Member of Parliament, representing the Son La province during term XIII (2011–2016) and term XIV (2016–2021). He is also a Standing Member of the Committee of the Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly of Vietnam, Vice Chairman of the Vietnam–Thailand Parliamentary Friendship Group, and Vice Chairman of the Group of Young MPs of the National Assembly of Vietnam.

**Hon. Mrs. Ton Thi Ngoc Hanh**  
*Member of Parliament*

Hon. Mrs. Ton Thi Ngoc Hanh became a Member of Parliament and a Member of the Parliamentary Committee for Social Affairs in 2016. She is the Deputy Head of the MP Delegation of Binh Phuoc Province. Prior to that between 2002 and 2016, she served under various capacities at the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of Binh Phuoc Province.
II. RESOURCE PERSONS
(Alphabetical order)

Mr. Bjoern Andersson
Regional Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia Pacific Regional Office

Mr. Bjoern Andersson is the newly appointed UNFPA Regional Director for Asia and Pacific. He has over 25 years of extensive experience in international development cooperation, both in the bilateral and multilateral arena. He has held key positions in programme management, policy development and strategic organizational management in the United Nations (UN) system and various government agencies. Mr. Andersson has also held key positions in the Government of Sweden.

Ms. Senait Gebregziabher Bayessa
Regional Director, Plan International Asia Regional Office

Ms. Senait Gebregziabher Bayessa is currently the Regional Director of the Plan International Asia Regional Office. She has more than two decades of experience in managing large-scale humanitarian and development programmes in Asia and Africa. These include senior roles with Oxfam, Save the Children and Plan International in Bangladesh, Somalia, Cambodia, Uganda, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka (including the responses to the 2005 tsunami and 2006–2009 escalation of conflict in Sri Lanka), and consultancy assignments in the World Bank on gender and land rights issues. Ms. Bayessa has extensive field experience in development, disaster risk reduction, emergency and relief, as well as direct programming experience in poverty reduction, education, protection, health, HIV and AIDS, governance, livelihoods, and community development.

Dr. Rinchen Chophel
Director General, South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children

Dr. Rinchen Chophel is the Director General of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children. He is a medical doctor by profession. Previously, he held the position of Executive Director of the National Commission for Women and Children, The Royal Government of Bhutan, and championed the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children with distinction. At the regional level, he is a well-known and highly regarded expert on gender and human rights, and supported many agencies, including the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Secretariat in many key regional projects and initiatives. Dr. Chophel has extensive experience in working with the Ministries of Women and Children of the Governments in South Asia, as well as with the UN, non-government organizations and research organizations in the SAARC Region.
Ms. Marta Diavolova  
*Regional Advisor, Strategic Partnerships, Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia*

Ms. Marta Diavolova is a Partnerships Adviser at UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia based in Istanbul, Turkey. Under her portfolio, she is coordinating the work with strategic partners in the region, namely with parliamentarian networks, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, UN agencies, and other development partners and regional structures. Before joining UNFPA's Regional Office, Ms. Diavolova had spent more than 15 years working in country offices with the World Health Organization and UNFPA.

Professor Lakshman Dissanayake  
*Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo*

Professor Lakshman Dissanayake entered the University of Colombo in June 1973 as an undergraduate student. He currently serves the University of Colombo as a Senior Professor in the Department of Demography. During his tenure in the University of Colombo, he was appointed to various academic, as well as administrative positions. He has served as the academic sub-warden, academic warden, student counselor, Coordinator of the Demographic Training and Research Unit, Rector of Sri Palee Campus, and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Professor Dissanayake has also officiated as the Acting Vice Chancellor of university. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA) in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Arthur Erken  
*Director, Division of Communications and Strategic Partnerships, UNFPA*

Mr. Arthur Erken was appointed as the Director of the UNFPA Division of Communications and Strategic Partnerships in 2015. Mr. Erken has been working with the UNFPA for more than 20 years. He joined the UNFPA in 1993 to be part of the Secretariat of the ICPD. Following that, he has worked in various positions, including as Special Assistant to Deputy Executive Director on Programme, Associate Director for Policy and Global Quality Standards, Development Group Office, and Representative in Bangladesh and Vietnam. Mr. Erken holds a Master’s degree from the Cultural Anthropology from the Catholic University Nijmegen, Netherlands (now Radboud University.)

Mr. Ashley William Bonaventure Gois  
*Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum of Asia*

Mr. Ashley William Bonaventure Gois is the Regional Coordinator of the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA). He also chairs the Global Coalition on Migration, and sits in the Steering Committee of the Asia Democracy Network. For over ten years, he has been at the forefront of international advocacy efforts engaging and influencing international and multilateral organizations to promote and protect the human rights and labor rights of migrant workers and members of their families through fair and informed migration and sustainable development policies. Mr. Gois represents MFA in the International
Steering Committee of the Civil Society Days of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. He leads and facilitates the engagement of MFA to the Colombo Process and Abu Dhabi Dialogue where MFA as civil society is officially invited as an observer. With his leadership, MFA was invited to do research on recruitment with the UAE government for the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

Ms. Tracy T. Huang
Associate Director, C&M International

Ms. Tracy T. Huang is an Associate Director with C&M International, an international trade, investment and regulatory policy consulting firm based in Washington, D.C. Ms. Huang serves as a Coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation’s “Healthy Women, Healthy Economies” initiative, which convenes government, private sector, academia, and other interested stakeholders to raise awareness and promote good practices to enhance women's economic participation by improving women’s health. Prior to joining C&M International, Ms. Huang was with PwC, where she assisted multinationals in China and the United States to comply with anti-corruption requirements. She also previously worked on a variety of Asia Pacific-related matters at the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Treasury Department.

H.E. Mr. Bryce Hutchesson
Australia’s High Commissioner to Sri Lanka

H.E. Mr Hutchesson currently serves as Australia’s High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Ambassador to Maldives. Until recently, he was the acting First Assistant Secretary of the South and West Asia Division. H.E. Mr. Hutchesson has served overseas as Deputy High Commissioner in New Delhi, with earlier postings in Bangkok and Tel Aviv. He has also served in Washington with the Office of National Assessments. In Canberra, H.E. Mr. Hutchesson has led DFAT's South Asia Branch, Executive, Planning and Evaluation Branch and several branches responsible for international security.

Ms. Thelma Kay
Former Senior Advisor, Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore

Ms. Thelma Kay is the former Senior Advisor on Ageing Issues at the Ministry of Social and Family Development in Singapore. She has also served as Chief of the Social Development Division at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). Currently, she serves as an Advisor and Consultant to governments and international organizations on social development issues. Ms. Kay directed UNESCAP’s work on social development covering the United Nation’s global and regional mandates on population and development, gender equality, ageing, and disability. She has also served on the board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s International Institute of Education Planning, the School of Energy, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology, and the United Nations International
Institute for Ageing. She is also a Council Member of the Active Ageing Consortium for Asia-Pacific.

**Mr. Eduardo Klien**  
*Regional Director, HelpAge International Asia Pacific Regional Office*

Mr. Eduardo Klien joined HelpAge as the Asia/Pacific Regional Representative in September 2004. He has worked in Asia for the last 12 years. Previously, he has worked with Oxfam GB as the Regional Manager for the Horn of Africa and the Regional Director for Mexico/Central America. Mr. Klien is an economist by profession and has been a Lecturer in Economics at the Universities of Mexico and Nicaragua. He has also been a Visiting Research Fellow at the Queen Elizabeth House of the University of Oxford. Mr. Klien is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Institute of Ageing of the University of Oxford.

**Ms. Ritsu Nacken**  
*Representative, UNFPA Sri Lanka*

Ms. Ritsu Nacken is the newly appointed UNFPA Representative in Sri Lanka. She has over 15 years of experience in the UN system, holding positions in New York, Fiji, Ethiopia, and most recently as the Deputy Representative of UNFPA in Vietnam. Ms. Nacken has a Master of Science degree in Non-Profit Management.

**Ms. Hadley Rose**  
*Consultant, USA*

Ms. Hadley Rose, J.D./LL.M., is an independent consultant providing training, research and programme support to international and foreign civil society organizations. Her experience includes working with victims of the Khmer Rouge regime to ensure they receive compensation, training of Syrian lawyers to enhance the quality of human rights monitoring and reporting in Syria, and advocating for Rwandan women whose land rights are violated. Ms. Rose has also carried out a number of projects related to women’s rights, including developing training curriculum and interactive materials for police and prosecutors on the violence against women law in Afghanistan, as well as conducting research, program evaluation, and advocacy on other key issues, such as child marriage and human trafficking.

**Ms. Ragaa Said**  
*Parliamentary Affairs Specialist, Division of Communications and Strategic Partnership, UNFPA*

Ms. Ragaa Said has been the Parliamentary Affairs Specialist at UNFPA Headquarters in New York since 2004. She advises and provides technical and substantive support to global, regional and country offices in UNFPA’s engagement with parliamentarians in support for the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. She also leads discussions for strategic resource mobilization from key UNFPA
partners on the funds core priorities. Ms. Said holds a Master’s degree in psychology from Adelphi University in New York and a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the United States International University.

**Mr. Rasa Sekulovic**  
_Editorial Board, Plan International Asia Regional Office_  

Mr. Rasa Sekulovic is the Regional Head of Child Protection at Plan International in Bangkok, Thailand. He has extensive experience in providing technical support and advice at the regional level in the area of child protection, child participation and child rights programming monitoring. Previously, he has also served as the Protection and Participation Program Manager in South East Europe for Save the Children, among other capacities. Mr. Sekulovic has an academic background in oriental studies, human rights, and social protection.

**Mr. Kabir Singh**  
_Senior Project Officer for HIV Health and Wellbeing Team, UNESCO Bangkok_  

Mr. Kabir Singh is the Senior Project Officer for the HIV Health and Wellbeing Team in UNESCO Bangkok. He has over 15 years of experience in South Asia in conceptualizing, managing and evaluating health programmes. His areas of expertise are in sexual, reproductive, maternal and child, and HIV health and well-being.

**Dr. Lynda Deborah Sirigoi-Kami**  
_President of the Women Doctors Association, Papua New Guinea_  

Dr. Lynda Deborah Sirigoi-Kami is the President of the Women Doctors Association of Papua New Guinea. WDA is a professional civil society organization which advocates for women’s health issues as driven by its vision of “Healthy Women, Healthy Nation.” The organization also addresses gender inequality within the profession. Dr. Sirigoi-Kami runs her own general practice, with special interest in occupational health and immigration medicals. She serves on the Board of the PNG Cancer Foundation and St. Johns Ambulance Council in Papua New Guinea. Her other interests include climate change, renewable energy and environmental issues.

**Associate Professor Asato Wako**  
_Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University_  

Dr. Asato Wako is an Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Letters in Kyoto University, Japan. Prior to joining Kyoto University in October 2008, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. Associate Professor Wako specializes in migration research, the empowerment and integration of migrant workers, and ageing-related issues, focusing on Asian countries. In December 2014, he received the Presidential Award in the Philippines in recognition of his exceptional work on migration research and related activities.
Mr. Koji Yagi
*Charge d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of Japan, Sri Lanka*

Mr. Koji Yagi is the Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka. He is currently acting as the Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy. He has served under various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Yagi was also the Deputy Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Tokyo Office in 2009.

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**III. SLPPD SECRETARIAT**

Mr. Suvinda S. Singapulli
*Director, National Secretariat of Elders, Sri Lanka*

Mr. Suvinda S. Singapulli is the Director of the National Secretariat of Elders. The National Secretariat for Elders of the Ministry of Social Empowerment and Welfare of Sri Lanka has been established under the Protection of Elders Rights Act No. 9 of 2000. In 2016, the National Secretariat of Elders has provided certificate courses on care-giving to meet the increasing demands of elderly homes in the country.

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**IV. AFPPD SECRETARIAT**

Ms. Mika Marumoto, Ph.D., Japan
*Executive Director, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development*

Ms. Mika Marumoto is the Executive Director of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). Ms. Marumoto is currently working with AFPPD’s Standing Committees on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, Investing in Youth, and Active Ageing. Prior to her current position, Ms. Marumoto was a Special Advisor for Management and Governance, serving on the AFPPD Task Force on Transparency, Accountability and Governance. She also worked as a development practitioner and strategy consultant for organizations, including the Asian Development Bank, UNFPA, UNDP, the World Bank Group and McKinsey & Company.