WORKSHOP REPORT:

2nd Training Workshop for Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Staff on Prioritizing ICPD Agenda in the SDGS

New Delhi, India   November 30 - December 1, 2015

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
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Glossary and Abbreviations

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AFPPD</td>
<td>Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development</td>
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<td>FPAI</td>
<td>Family Planning Association of India</td>
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<td>IAPPD</td>
<td>Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development</td>
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<td>ICPD PoA</td>
<td>International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action</td>
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<td>IPPF</td>
<td>International Planned Parenthood Federation</td>
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<td>IPPF SARO</td>
<td>International Planned Parenthood Federation, South Asia Regional Office</td>
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<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisation</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>SRHR</td>
<td>Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development would like to thank the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development for hosting the training workshop and the Asia and the Pacific Office of the United Nations Population Fund and the Japan Trust Fund for the support.
Introduction

For the past 30 years, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) has been playing a crucial role in engaging Asia-Pacific parliamentarians in a wide variety of issues related to population and development and advocacy for policy and/or legislative solutions.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by member states at the UN in September 2015 and the new development framework will take effect from January 2016. The SDGs will influence policy priorities and resourcing for population and development issues for years to come. Parliamentarians have a critical role to play in ensuring that the full implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) remains a priority, and that governments honor and implement their ICPD commitments.

AFPPD is working with parliamentarians to increase their ability to advocate for ICPD in the Post 2015 development agenda in their countries.

As part of the support provided, AFPPD has produced the following two key publications to strengthen parliamentarians capacity in this work:


In addition to making these resource materials available to parliamentarians, this workshop was also organized by AFPPD to build on and complement the resource materials.

The objectives of the Training Workshop were to strengthen the capacity of national committee staff and parliamentarians on policy advocacy and on advocating for unfinished and emerging ICPD issues in their national SDGs plans.

The workshop took place over a two-day period (30 November-1 December 2015) at the Lalit Hotel in New Delhi and was facilitated by Ms. Lucy Jones who has worked in the field of SRHR for over ten years and is an experienced facilitator.
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

AFGHANISTAN

Hon. Mr. Ramazan Jumazada, MP
Member of Parliament

Hon. Mrs. Sahera Shari, MP
Member of Parliament

Mr. Nezamudin Adel
Director General for International Relations
Department, Wolesi Jirga (House of People)
National Assembly of Afghanistan

Mr. Fazil Haq Kamal
Website Manager
National Assembly of Afghanistan

BHUTAN

Hon. Mr. Karma Tenzin, MP
Member of Parliament

Hon. Mr. Tek Bahadur Subba, MP
Member of Parliament

INDIA

Hon. Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP
Member of Parliament
Hon. Mr. Avinash Rai Khanna, MP  
Member of Parliament

Hon. Mr. Shanta Ram Naik, MP  
Member of Parliament

Hon. Mr. V.P. Singh, MP  
Member of Parliament

Hon. Mr. Baishnav Parida, MP  
Member of Parliament

Hon. Mr. Pradip Bhattacharya, MP  
Member of Parliament

Hon. Mr. Rajesh Dharmani, MP  
Member of Parliament

Hon. Mr. Ramesh Arora, MP  
Member of Parliament

Hon. Mr. Khaidir, MP  
Member of Parliament

Hon. Dr. Adang Sudrajat MM. Av., MP  
Member of Parliament

Ms. Fitria Yuliawati Lokollo  
Technical Assistant of Commission on Population and Health

Mr. Ryan Rahardjo  
Parliamentarians Advocate, UNFPA

IPPF SARO

Ms. Neha Chauhan  
Programme Specialist, Advocacy, IPPF SARO

FPAI

Mrs. Geeta Sethi  
Secretary General  
Facilitator

Ms. Lucy Jones  
AFPPD

Dr. Mika Marumo  
Executive Director

Ms. Kusalin Wongnamkob  
Programme Specialist-Gender

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Administrative Manager

IAPPD

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Executive Secretary

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Programme Associate

Ms. Maya Raturi  
Programme Assistant

INDONESIA
**Agenda:** The 2nd Training Workshop for Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Staff on Prioritizing ICPD agenda in the SDGs

30 November – 1 December 2015, 9am – 5.30pm  
Location: Lalit hotel, New Delhi  
Facilitator: Ms. Lucy Jones, lucy-jones@hotmail.co.uk

### Day 1 - Monday, 30 November 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-9:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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| 9:00-9:30     | Welcome remarks by Hon. Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP (on behalf of Hon. Prof. P.J. Kurien, Vice-Chair of AFPPD)  
Opening remarks by Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director, AFPPD  
Introductions  
Agenda, Objectives |
| 9:30-11:00    | **Session 1. Overview of ICPD and the SDG Process**  
**A. Overview of ICPD Beyond 2014**  
**B. Overview of the SDGs and current status**  
**C. Linkages between ICPD and the SDGs** |
| 11:00-11:30   | Coffee Break and Group photo                                           |
| 11:30-13:00   | **Session 2. Key population and development messages and how to frame these within wider development debates** |
| 13:00-14:00   | Lunch                                                                  |
| 14:00-14:40   | **Session 3: Advocacy messages for adolescent SRHR & CSE**            |
| 14:40-15:00   | *Presentation by IPPF SARO: Supporting Parliamentarians’ advocacy for SDG implementation* |
| 15:00-15:45   | **Session 4. Exercise to review ICPD and MDG progress at national level and identify priorities for national advocacy work** |
| 15:45-16:00   | Coffee Break                                                          |
| 16:00-17:15   | *Presentation of Parliamentarians on progress & priorities at national level* |
| 17:15-17:30   | Summary of Day 1 and introduction to Day 2                           |

### Day 2 - Tuesday, 1 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-11:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 5. Championing the ICPD agenda in national SDG plans and monitoring frameworks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-11:15</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>11:15-11:45</td>
<td><em>Presentation by Mrs. Geeta Sethi, Family Planning Association of India (FPAI): Working in partnership to carry out effective advocacy work</em></td>
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<td>11:45-13:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 6. Tools and strategies to champion the ICPD agenda in national SDG plans and monitoring frameworks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00-14:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>14:00-14:45</td>
<td><strong>Session 6 continued: Participants feedback presentations to group</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14:45-15:30</td>
<td><strong>Session 7: Accountability in the SDG process</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30-15:45</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:45-17:15</td>
<td><strong>Session 8: First steps in designing an advocacy plan for championing the ICPD agenda in national SDG plans and monitoring frameworks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>17:15-17:30</td>
<td>Evaluation, Q&amp;A, Wrap Up</td>
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Session 1: Overview of ICPD, MDGs and the SDG Process

The aim of session 1 was to provide participants with a comprehensive overview of ICPD and the development of the SDG framework and allow time for discussion and relevant questions. The following presentations were made as part of this session:

A. Overview of ICPD Beyond 2014 – presented by Ms. Lucy Jones

The presentation gave the background to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) including the Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) and the new ICPD Beyond 2014 Framework of Actions. The presentation also made participants aware of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development (otherwise known as the Bangkok Declaration) and the importance of this to their ongoing advocacy and accountability work.

B. Outline of the new SDG Framework and linkages with ICPD – presented by Ms. Lucy Jones

This presentation gave a short introduction to the new SDG Framework. An explanation was given of how the SDGs differ from and build on the MDGs. In particular, the aim of the SDGs to be integrated and indivisible and balance the 3 dimensions of sustainable development (the economic, social and environmental) was described. Participants were made aware of the importance placed by the SDG Framework on reducing inequality and exclusion and ensuring human rights principles are taken into account.

Particular mention was made of SDGs 3 (Ensure health lives and promote well-being for all at all ages); and 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

Finally a mention was made of the fact that certain SRHR omissions still exist in the SDGs – namely safe abortion, sexual orientation and gender identity. Also comprehensive sexuality education has not been explicitly included in the SDGs either.

The following handouts were provided to participants to support these presentations and can be viewed in Annex A: Workshop Materials:

- Summary of ICPD Beyond 2014 (1 page)
- Outline of the 17 new SDGs
- Overview of SDG the new SDG framework (1 page)
- Overview of Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5
Session 2: Key population and development messages and how these fit within wider development debates

Building on the experience of the first workshop, this session allowed participants to explore and better understand some of the key issues concerning SRHR including the importance of a human rights based approach to SRHR; why SRHR is a phenomenal investment and the meaning and significance of ‘demographic dividend’.

The session aims to strengthen participants’ ability to develop population and development messages for advocacy purposes, particularly concerning SRHR.

Advocacy is most effective when based on solid, compelling yet easy to convey facts and evidence. The session therefore presented key facts and pieces of evidence to participants which strongly make the case for SRHR and place it within the wider development picture. The session provided ‘take away’ messages that participants could later use to strengthen their advocacy work. The messages and information were drawn from (and expanded on) the Resource Kit. Factsheets of key messages and information were provided for simple reference.

Handouts for Session 3:
1. Summary of Treaties relevant to SRHR
   Information sources for key SRHR messages
2. IPPF Fact files – Linking SRHR and Sustainable Development
3. Guttmacher Factsheet – Adding it Up Asia
4. UNFPA Factsheets on SRHR; GBV; Safe Abortion and Adolescent SRHR

The presentation led to a general debate among participants about the relevance of certain aspects of SRHR to their national contexts. In particular, the issues of abortion and comprehensive sexuality education were raised. It was acknowledged that cultural and religious norms and restrictions in certain countries mean that these two issues remain highly contentious and participants felt that it would not be appropriate to carry out advocacy work on these issues. Participants were reminded that the ICPD programme of action spans a large spectrum of issues aside of these two particular issues.
Session 3: Advocating for provision of adolescent sexual and reproductive health services and comprehensive sexuality education in your country

Following this, and building on the previous session, the participants where then shown a short video clip about the need to prioritize adolescent SRHR and asked to consider what messages they could use to advocate for adolescent SRHR and CSE in their countries. Participants worked in their country groups to consider a number of questions (provided on a handout) before feeding back and having a general discussion amongst the group.

A number of the countries present reported that SRH services and CSE wasn’t available to unmarried adolescents in their countries because societal, religious and cultural norms would not permit it. There was acknowledgement, however, among participants of the importance of adolescents health, education and well-being to the overall development of a country.

Presentation: “Supporting Parliamentarians’ Advocacy for SDG Implementation”

Following the session, a presentation entitled “Supporting Parliamentarians’ Advocacy for SDG Implementation” was given by Ms. Neha Chauhan, Programme Specialist from the South Asia Regional Office of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

The presentation outlined the importance of parliamentarians in the SDG process citing their role and influence as follows:

**Leadership role:** policy formulation, development of legislation

**Hold the purse strings:** define fiscal and budgetary regimes

**Have the means:** to ensure oversight, accountability, transparency

**Represent electorate:** give expression to the voice of citizens

An outline was given of the different types of cooperation between parliaments and civil society which exist in India and include both institutionalised forms (such as forums and parliamentary committees), and non-institutionalised forms (such as conferences, round tables, written opinion/public hearing).

Following this, an outline of actions which parliamentarians can take to influence the start of SDG implementation in their countries was provided and included the following:

1. **Take Action:** Invite experts to PCs, Ask Parliamentary Questions, Introduce Reports/Motions, Organize Events, Contact National Delegations

2. **Be Accountable:** Report back on your experiences to – All Party Parliamentary groups, NGOs working on SDGs, Relevant Committees

3. **Speak about your experiences:** During parliamentarians meeting, media, relevant ministries

4. **Create Visibility:** Traditional and Social Media, Press Releases/ Statements, Use Relevant International Days

5. **Demonstrate Commitment:** Write Blogs, Articles on your blogs/ websites, Facebook-Twitter Pages.

The support that CSOs can provide to parliamentarians in this work, such as providing evidence and context for parliamentary questions and other advocacy related work was outlined.

Finally, five case studies (from Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bhutan, Pakistan and Nepal) of successful collaborative advocacy between IPPF South Asia...
and parliamentarians were discussed. One of the case studies outlined how collaborative work between CSOs and parliamentarians had resulted in the Child Marriage Act being passed in a number of provinces in India in 2014 and 2015.

The presentation successfully outlined to participants how working with CSOs could increase their knowledge of issues, help them access evidence and data and increase their ability to influence and champion issues.

Session 4: Exercise to review ICPD and MDG progress at national level and identify priorities for national advocacy work

The aim of the exercise was to discuss information sources used by parliamentarians to access data and details on national level progress relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights and population and development. The session also included an analysis aspect where participants identified areas of poor progress in their countries through data which they had brought to the workshop as well as data for each country showing ICPD progress.

Participants worked in country groups for the purposes of the exercise, each group reviewing progress within their national context against ICPD goals and targets. Where only one or two participants from a given country were present, an AFPPD staff member joined the group for the purposes of the exercise.

Hand outs were provided to guide the groups through the exercise. These included:

1. ICPD progress report for each country
2. Information sources for data and details of national level progress
3. A list of questions to guide their review and analysis of the progress reports

One of the objectives of the session was for participants to select one or two issues to prioritize for their advocacy work. These issues would be selected based on areas of poor progress as demonstrated in the data analysed.

Following the exercise, each country group reported back to the larger group.

Issues raised relating to information sources were as follows:

- Most of the participants remarked that their own government provided data was more reliable and up to date than the data included in the ICPD country progress reports. A number of the participants had brought some of their national data to the workshop with them and used this rather than the ICPD data for the analysis exercise.
- The participants from Afghanistan explained that the severe security issues in the country had meant that data collection was currently very poor and no up to date data was therefore available for them to analyse.
- The importance of having reliable data in order to be able to hold governments to account was also discussed and it was acknowledged that advocacy for improved data collection would be an important advocacy objective in itself.

Priority issues identified for advocacy work by participants were as follows:

- Afghanistan: Family planning uptake
- Bhutan: Domestic violence (gender based violence)
- India: Gender based discrimination (including gender based violence)
- Indonesia: Maternal mortality rate (which has not improved despite the MDGs)
Session 5: Championing the ICPD agenda in national SDG plans and monitoring frameworks

The session started with a presentation to outline what is known about the process at the national level for the development of SDG plans and monitoring frameworks.

Participants were informed that although the SDG Framework has been adopted, a global indicator framework was still in the process of being developed as is due to be presented to the UN in March 2016 and adopted in September 2016. Until this is complete the country level indicators will not be developed.

The presentation also outlined that countries are being encouraged not to develop parallel or duplicate systems when developing their SDG plans. Many of the SDG goals and targets will already be included under countries existing national plans and it is therefore likely that countries will review their plans, policies and legislation to assess whether they are comprehensive enough to cover the SDG requirements or whether some new additions (such as new policies or additions to plans) need to be developed.

Participants were then introduced to the concept of political process identification and it's importance to developing an effective advocacy initiative. Participants carried out an exercise to identify political processes and intervention points with regard to SDG plan development within their respective countries. The exercise was guided by a series of questions provided in the session handout.

Participants fed back their findings to the wider group and some of the following observations were noted:

- Most of the groups had some idea of what plans are currently in place in their countries to develop SDG plans and indicators. The exercise was useful in helping them identify gaps in their knowledge which they can try to address.
- The exercise helped participants consider which ministries and political actors would be responsible for developing the national SDG plans and indicators increasing their focus on engaging with their groups to influence the process.

The session then covered the importance of working in partnership for effective advocacy (with NGOs, academic institutions, multilateral organisations, and with other parliamentarians and parliamentary groups to strengthen advocacy work). Participants were given post-it notes and asked to write types of partners they believe would strengthen their advocacy work. The suggestions provided by participants were then grouped into types of partners and discussed in plenary. The most important partners identified were NGOs, the media, UN agencies and local government. A handout was also made available providing a list of possible partnerships and the main contributions they could make.

Presentation: “Advocacy Efforts in Supporting SDG Implementation at the National Level”

Following the coffee break, a presentation entitled “Advocacy Efforts in Supporting SDG Implementation at the National Level” was given by Mrs. Geeta Sethi, Secretary General of the Family Planning Association of India (FPAI).

Mrs. Geeta Sethi, Secretary General, FPAI
The presentation outlined the importance of advocacy in an increasingly globalised work with shrinking resources available and made the case for parliamentarians and CSOs working together to improve the effectiveness and reach of the advocacy work.

Mrs. Sethi outlined how, with 44 branches across India, FPAI brings significant and important knowledge and input from the ground which can be shared with parliamentarians. This evidence and first hand experience can strengthen parliamentarians awareness and ability to influence. The presentation outlined how different CSOs work across different sectors and can bring a wide range of experience to the table. CSOs can also play an influential role in working with the media and holding governments to account for delivery of programmes.

Session 6: Tools and strategies to champion the ICPD agenda in national SDG plans and monitoring frameworks

Session 6 looked at the importance of understanding the issue/s participants have identified for their advocacy efforts. A brief presentation was given to stress that in order to carry out effective advocacy on key selected issues, it is important to understand the key factors behind the issue (both in terms of social, cultural, religious and geographic barriers to solving the problem and in terms of areas where government commitment or implementation is lacking or slow).
Participants carried out an exercise to analyse the key factors behind the issue; what government commitments are already in place and what gaps exist. Participants were asked to consider key policies, budget lines, and legislation relevant to the issue and whether this was adequate. Participants noted that this was a useful exercise both in terms of making them more aware of where their advocacy focus would be important, as well as what gaps in their knowledge they should address in order to fully understand the issue in question.

Participants were reminded that additional material also exists in the Advocacy Manual to help them analyse the issues they wish to champion.

Session 7: Accountability in the SDG process

The session looked at the principles of accountability in the implementation of the SDGs and the role of parliamentarians. This involved the group reviewing the accountability processes outlined in the post-2015 framework document and considering what role parliamentarians can play.

IAPPD was able to organise a visit to the India Parliament for workshop participants but this meant ending the workshop earlier than anticipated in order to promptly leave at 4.30pm for the visit. Session 8 was therefore not carried out. Participants were made aware of the additional material and guidance and encouraged to continue developing their advocacy plans on returning to their countries.

Feedback from participants on the training

An evaluation form was provided to participants and the answers received were as follows:

- The overall assessment of the workshop is excellent.
- All participants agreed that the workshop achieved its objectives and the knowledge and information gained are very useful and applicable in their work.
- Participants have more understanding about ICPD agenda and SDGs, especially goal 3 and 5.
- Some participants would like to have more time for more discussion and interaction with representatives from other countries.
- The workshop materials should be distributed well in advance for better preparation.
- AFPPD should be better aware of the different level of knowledge of parliamentarians from different countries.
- Most participants appreciated the video presentations in which the key messages are already simplified.
- It is suggested by some participants to include each country data for better discussion and exchange of information between countries (comparative case study).