



# JPFP Newsletter

Secretariat of Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)  
Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

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## JPFP's Longstanding Initiative Featured in 2025 Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report

In 2025, Japan conducted its third Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the first in four years. At the 16th meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters held on 10 June, chaired by Prime Minister H.E. Ishiba Shigeru, the government adopted the official VNR report summarizing Japan's efforts toward achieving the SDGs. The report formally includes a reference to the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) and its long-standing contributions. This inclusion reflects the efforts of relevant stakeholders, in particular JPFP Chair Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, and marks a renewed recognition within an official government document of Japanese parliamentarians' pioneering and sustained engagement in population and development issues. An excerpt from the report reads as follows:

*[Provisional translation] "The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) is a cross-party parliamentary league with a very long history, established in 1974. ... Notably, JPFP played a significant role in the concept of 'sustainable development'. The establishment of the 'World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED)', which was instrumental in forming the concept of 'sustainable development' foundational to the SDGs, was proposed by members of JPFP through the Japanese government and established with Japan's contribution. Additionally, JPFP, through collaboration with parliamentarians from various countries, networks of legislators in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, experts, international organizations, and civil society, advocates for the importance of population issues, shares mutual experiences, and engages in discussions towards related legislation and policy formation, motivating concrete actions for problem-solving. (p. 213)"*

The English version of the report will be prepared and submitted to the United Nations, and it is scheduled to be presented at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to be held next month in July.

● Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan Website

“Report of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the SDGs” (In Japanese)

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sdgs/pdf/20250610\\_vnr.pdf](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sdgs/pdf/20250610_vnr.pdf)



The keynote address by former Foreign Minister Hon. Okita Saburo at the [8th APDA Meeting](#) (1992), which served as a reference for the section on JPFP in the VNR report.

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## TICAD Feature Article #5

### Progress in Legal Development in the Arab Region

The Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD), in close collaboration with the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), has seen significant progress in legislation and legal reforms addressing population and development issues across several Arab countries. These achievements are grounded in the policy dialogues and recommendations developed during the annual parliamentary meetings convened by APDA and FAPPD. FAPPD has acknowledged that such progress was made possible with the support extended by Japan, to which it has expressed its deep gratitude.

#### Egypt

A series of important laws have been enacted, including those concerning the National Council for Women, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and the Rights of the Elderly. Also, since 2023, television programmes focusing on population and development issues have been produced and broadcast, to raise public awareness about youth education and women's issues

## Lebanon

A law to protect children from early marriage was proposed, and in September 2023, the Human Rights Committee of the Lebanese Parliament approved legislation setting the legal age of marriage at 18 for both genders across the country, without exception. The law stipulates penalties of up to three years' imprisonment and fines for anyone involved in the marriage of a minor, including guardians, religious officials, and third parties.

## Tunisia

In 2024, the law on violence against women was amended to include provisions for safe shelters for victims and stricter penalties for perpetrators of domestic violence. According to the Tunisian Ministry of Women and Family Affairs, the number of women benefiting from legal protection programmes and social services increased by 25% in 2024.

## Morocco

A new law was enacted prohibiting child labor for individuals under the age of 15 and improving access to education. According to the Moroccan Ministry of Education, the primary school enrollment rate rose to 96% in 2024, up from 91% in 2020.



FAPPDs' study visit to Fédération des Ligues des Droits des Femmes (FLDF) in Morocco in September 2024.

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# IPPF: Bridging Peace and Health: Advancing SRHR in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Arab World Regional Office convened a regional conference on 7-8 May under the title *“Bridging Peace and Health: Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda through Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)”*. The event brought together policymakers, international organizations, and civil society actors from across the Arab region to share strategies for integrating SRHR into peace and resilience frameworks. Among the distinguished participants was Ms. Watanabe Tomoko, Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of Japan in Jordan. Representing the Government of Japan—co-chair of the WPS Focal Points Network in 2025—Ms. Watanabe emphasized the importance of ensuring that even the most vulnerable populations are not left behind, and underscored the role of SRHR as a vital element of peace and recovery. As a tangible outcome of the conference, participants announced the establishment of a regional hub that will serve as a collaborative platform to advance SRHR within the WPS agenda. (Full text available on the [IPPF website](#))

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## JPFP

Established in 1974, JPFP has the longest history in the world as a supra-partisan parliamentary group on population and development. JPFP, in concert with APDA, has created a network of parliamentarians on population and development, through which a diverse range of knowledge and experience has been shared to accomplish concrete results.

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## APDA

APDA since its establishment in 1982 has served as the secretariat of JPFP.

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