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Public Symposium

“Aftermath of MDG Summit and Population Issues”

17 October 2005
Tokyo, JAPAN

THE ASIAN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
(APDA)

Public Symposium
“Aftermath of MDG Summit and Population Issues”

Host Organization

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

Cooperating Organization

**Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
(AFPPD)**

Supporting Organization

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

17 October 2005

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ACRONYMS

AFPPD	Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
APDA	Asian Population and Development Association
FAAPPD	Forum of African and Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development
JPFP	Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population
IEFPD	Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development
IPCI- ICPD	International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action
IAPG	Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development
PGA	Parliamentarians for Global Action

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Panellists



RATU EPELI NAILATIKAU

VICE-CHAIRPERSON, AFPPD

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FIJI

- 1982 Appointed Commander, Royal Fiji Military Forces
- 1986 Promoted to Brigadier General
- 1986-1992 Ambassador to the United Kingdom and accredited to Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Israel and the Holy See
- 1994, 1996 Appointed Honorary Colonel
- 1998 Appointed Roving Ambassador to Forum Island Countries
- 1999 Appointed Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs and External Trade
- 2000-2001 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Fijian Affairs
- 2001 Elected as Speaker of the House of Representatives
- 2005 UNAIDS Special Representative for HIV/AIDS in the Pacific



MS. NDO EVINA ANGELINE

MEMBER OF FAAPPD

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, CAMEROON

Member of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA); Bureau & Education Committee in National Assembly of Cameroon; Parliamentary Working Group on Environment & Sustainable Forest Management; inter-country friendship groups between Cameroon and Great Britain, Congo and Zambia; and local associations to support women's empowerment

Secretary-General of Women Caucus in Parliament, Cameroon

Former Human Resources Manager

Attended a number of international conferences such as Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), CPA, CIPD, ITTO, ILO, AGOA, FSC



DR. JOAQUÍN MONASTERIO

MEMBER OF IAPG

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS SENATE, BOLIVIA

Doctor of Medicine

Master's Degree in Public Health

- 1983 Prefect for the Department of Santa Cruz
- 1985 National Director of Student Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Culture
- 1985-1991 Member of the House of Representatives of the Bolivian Congress
- 1987, 1991 President of the Parliament Team for Santa Cruz
- 1992-1993 President and Vice-President of the Municipal Council of Santa Cruz
- 1993-1995 Minister of Health
- 2002-2004 Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- 2002-2004 President for the Commission of Health, Social Security and Reorganization
- 2003-2006 Vice-President for the International Medical Parliamentarians Organization (IMPO)
- 2003-2005 Introduced the bill "General Health Law" during the current legislative term



MS. RUTH GENNER

IEPPFD PRESIDENT

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT, SWITZERLAND

- 1981 Degree as a food engineer, dipl. Lm.-Ing. ETH at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich
- 1981-1997 Scientific assistant and lecturer as a food scientist at the Institute of Food Science and Technology ETH, Zurich
- 1997-1999 Project leader for health promotion at schools at the Pestalozzianum, Zurich
- 1998 Elected as a member of the National Parliament, Switzerland
Founding member and now Co-President of the Swiss All-Party Group "Cairo +"
- 2001- Member of IEPPFD
- 2001- Project leader for health promotion and prevention of diabetes Typ-2
- 2002- Co-President of the Green Party Switzerland



MR. BASSEY EWA-HENSHAW

MEMBER OF PGA

SENATOR OF NATIONAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Graduate of New York University and New York University Graduate School of Business
Specialization in Banking and Financial Management, Economics, International Trade, Accounting
and Management Information System, with professional experience at reputable banks such as
Chase Manhattan Bank and Citibank

1984-1988 First indigenous Managing Director of Agbara Estates

1986-1994 Member Governing Council, University of Ibadan,

1990-1992 Chairperson and Board of Directors of Calabar Cement Company

1992 Member of Federal Government Task Force on Export Processing Zone

1998 Member of Federal Government Task Force, University of Calabar Teaching Hospital

1998 Won the Nigerian Television Authority Calabar Merit Award for Excellence

Currently Chairperson of the Senate Standing/Oversight Committee on Employment, Labor and
Productivity; and a member of Senate Committees on Defense and Army; Senate
Committees on Culture and Tourism; and Senate Committees on Agriculture

Moderator:



MS. WAKAKO HIRONAKA

VICE-CHAIRPERSON, JPFP

PRESIDENT, PGA JAPAN

SENATOR OF THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS, JAPAN

B.A. in English, Ochanomizu Women's University

M.A. in Anthropology, Brandeis University

1986 Elected as a Senator of the House of Councilors

1993-1994 Minister of State, Director-General of Environment Agency in the Hosokawa Cabinet

Currently Vice-President of the Democratic Party of Japan; Chair of Research Committee on
Economy, Industry and Employment; and a member of the Committee on Education,
Culture and Science in the House of Councilors; a member of Earth Charter
Commission, GLOBE and GEA

OPENING ADDRESS

DR. TARO NAKAYAMA

JPPF CHAIRPERSON



Welcome to Japan. I would like to express my sincere welcome to you all. Today we are holding this public symposium attended by parliamentarians representing various regions of the world who are interested in reproductive health and population in development. We are holding this public symposium here in Japan and I am very glad about it.

On behalf of JPPF, I would like to express my appreciation and welcome to the parliamentarians who have come all the way from various regions of the world, as well as the members of UNFPA and AFPPD Secretariat.

JPPF was founded 30 years ago by former Prime Minister late Mr. Nobusuke Kishi, who recognized the importance of population issues. It was succeeded by former Prime Ministers late Mr. Takeo Fukuda and by late Mr. Shintaro Abe. I am the fourth chairperson of JPPF. Fortunately, there has been an increase in interest among parliamentarians about the world population problems, with regional parliamentary associations, having been created in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Arab, Latin America, and Europe. We also have been able to establish a global network and I am very glad about this.

We are holding this open symposium today because the Steering Committee Meeting was held for the 3rd International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, next year. So in front of mass media, NGOs, and people who are interested in population issues, parliamentarians from various regions of the world get together here to discuss in free atmosphere.

Five years have already passed since the 21st Century started and we had the prediction that the world would have a peaceful era after the end of the Cold War. Conversely, we have various problems such as terrorism, AIDS, tsunami and abnormal natural disasters. So we are currently facing difficult challenges, which one may call "negative globalization".

These are the issues that are closely related to the issues we have been tackling, especially the issues of population and development. These issues should be handled on a global basis. Japan has cooperated with the United Nations. In order to promote international cooperation, we are emphasizing the concept of human security. In order to address the aforementioned challenges facing mankind, the whole international community should cooperate with each other, and we should exceed and go beyond the national border, exerting efforts to improve the situations of

human rights, poverty, medical care and education.

That cannot be handled by the government alone. We need help from the NGOs; namely, bottom-up approach is necessary. In order to be effective in that bottom-up approach, we need to have good governance such as democratization and efficient government. So when we have both bottom-up approach and good governance, we will be able to make achievements in development in this human security. As a result, we will be able to have better lives and we will be able to have peace. It is the role of us parliamentarians to be the bridge between the government and the efforts of these entities. We hope through this public symposium we will be able to stimulate this kind of discussion.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to those people who attended this meeting. Thank you very much.



ADDRESS

MS. SAFIYE CAGAR

DIRECTOR, INFORMATION, EXECUTIVE BOARD
AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION DIVISION, UNFPA

I would like to thank the Asian Population and Development Association and its Chair, Dr. Taro Nakayama, as well as the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and its Chair, Mr. Yoshio Yatsu, for organizing this public symposium.



It is a pleasure to be here with you today. It is my second visit to Japan this year and I must admit, this is my favorite time of the year to be in Japan—with its perfect weather and the leaves starting to take on colors of autumn.

A few weeks ago in New York, over 160 heads of state and government joined together and agreed to give the United Nations and the world a new beginning. The outcome of the 2005 World Summit, particularly those relating to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), signify a commitment to development that is more far reaching than any other in history. Among the steps agreed upon to attain the MDGs are concrete actions that will help to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; and ensure environmental sustainability.

The United Nations was founded 60 years ago to promote development, human rights and world peace. Throughout its existence, the United Nations has diligently pursued these goals, working hand in hand with governments, members of parliaments, NGOs and civil society. But there has never been a commitment that has been so broad and yet so focused on human well-being as the Millennium Development Goals. If the MDGs can be achieved by 2015, then we are on the right track to making poverty history and to ending the numerous human miseries that have plagued the planet for centuries.

The theme of today's forum is the linkage between the MDGs and population issues. In this regard, I am very pleased to note that world leaders have unanimously agreed that universal access to reproductive health is essential to achieving the MDGs. Over the past few years, UNFPA, along with its partners, has stressed that MDGs cannot be achieved without attention to population and reproductive health. We are extremely happy, therefore, that Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan, the Millennium Project, which consists of 265 leading experts from around the world, and the world leaders at the UN World Summit, reaffirmed this important linkage.

Now we need to move from words to action. We need to move from lines in speeches to lines in national budgets. We must ensure that the commitment made at the Summit is translated into solid plans, policies, laws, programmes and actions that benefit women, men and young people around the world.

We still have daunting challenges ahead of us. In today's world, each minute:

- One woman dies each minute from pregnancy and childbirth;
- Each minute, 10 people become infected with HIV, half of them young people under the age of 25; many are young girls;
- Each minute, 6 people die of AIDS;
- 42% of women in the developing world give birth without the assistance of a skilled medical professional; and
- In every region, millions of women face violence, discrimination and even death in their own homes and societies, and in conflict and post-conflict situations.

This is a moral outrage and a human rights crisis. These situations are not acceptable, especially since there are proven, low-cost interventions that can make a world of difference and save millions of lives.

Investing in women and girls economic, political and educational opportunities will yield quick wins and high pay-offs that lead to improved economic prospects, smaller families, healthier and more literate children, lower HIV prevalence rates and reduced incidence of harmful traditional practices.

Let us work together to achieve the MDGs by 2015. Let us use the opportunity of this forum to remind ourselves and, through the media, to remind our fellow citizens how very important this task is for our generation and for those that will follow. Japan is a great nation. Your population is two per cent of the world's total, but your wealth and your influence are many times that number.

Honorable members of parliament, NGO representatives, friends and colleagues, I thank you for your continued support for the Millennium Development Goals and the work of the United Nations. I know that as long as we remain united, we will succeed. I look forward to a fruitful discussion. Thank you.

PANEL DISCUSSION

“AFTERMATH OF MDG SUMMIT AND POPULATION ISSUES”

SESSION 1

Challenges for the MDGs and Evaluation of the 2005 World Summit

MS. WAKAKO HIRONAKA, MODERATOR:

Now, let us proceed to the discussion. Today, we are fortunate to have with us, panellists representing the regions of Asia and the Pacific, Arab, Africa, Latin America, and Europe as well as Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a New York-based NGO.

As you all know very well, in the 2000 Millennium Summit, the international community agreed on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with the aim to reduce world poverty and stimulating development, particularly in the regions of Asia and Africa. Five years after the establishment of MDGs, UN Summit was held this past September to outline the progress we have made. The resulting outcome document agreed on the eradication of poverty, the reduction of pregnancy related death, gender equality and inclusion of reproductive health in each country's strategy as means to encounter the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The panellists here today represent many different regions, and will share their opinions based on their varied backgrounds and experiences. Though we all know that a long discussion is preferable, time is limited. So I must request each panellist to limit your remarks to five minutes. I would like to ask regional representatives to begin with their views on the relationship between the population problems and MDGs. Vice-Chairperson of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Develop-

ment (AFPPD), and Speaker of Parliament from Fiji, Mr. Epeli Nailatikau. May I ask you to lead off the discussion, please?

RATU EPELI NAILATIKAU, AFPPD VICE-CHAIRPERSON:

Thank you Madame Chair, honourable members, ladies and gentlemen. I have been described as the vice-chairperson of AFPPD. I am indeed that. But I am also the chair of the Pacific Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development. I would like on this occasion to concentrate my contribution on the Pacific side. It is an area that I am familiar with, and in particular that of my own country.

As far as the MDGs are concerned, Fiji believes that it can achieve by the year 2015 six out of the MDGs. It is well on target with MDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8. And of course with the introduction of the 9th MDG, reproductive health, it will pursue its efforts in that direction. The MDGs that we are not likely to achieve without extra effort are MDGs 1 and 6. MDG 1 of course will be to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and MDG 6 will be to combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and other diseases. Now I will deal with those two.

MDG 1, and in the 1980s, Fiji was described as a society with inequalities but relatively little absolute poverty. The 1997 Fiji Poverty Report reached a similar conclusion. About 25% of the

households lived in poverty, unable to afford a basically adequate living as defined by Fiji standards. Many more households were vulnerable to poverty. The report challenged the generally held assumption in Fiji that poverty is rare and that better off relatives always help disadvantaged people. The report found that poverty pervaded all communities, Fijian, Indian, and others, and was not restricted to a particular ethnic group or section of the society. Inequalities of wealth were greater within the ethnic groups than between them. The main difference was that Fijian households predominated in the middle income groups while Indian households predominate in both the lowest and highest income groups. Income inequality was therefore greatest among the Indian households.

A recent study surveyed between 20 communities and found that 9 communities reported that situations had improved during the past five years. Another 9 felt that their situation had worsened and that they saw no change in their standard of living. Communities that said their lives had improved cited community improvements such as the construction of a community hall, footpath, community water supply, or rural electrification as improving their wellbeing. The communities that reported greater hardship cited price increases of basic commodities, increased unemployment, particularly in the urban areas, and high school dropout rates. People who said that life had become harder were mainly those who were most disadvantaged. The survey also confirmed several findings on the Fiji Poverty Report. Urban communities, that is of all ethnicities associated poverty with inability to afford basic needs such as housing and food or access basic services, infrastructure, particularly education, water supply, and power. Often because they lack secure land title or cannot afford the connection costs. The growing number of children and youth who drop out from school because of inability to afford the costs and then increased

involvement of young people in criminal activities and prostitution because of lack of other income.

Now as for HIV/AIDS, MDG 6. The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Fiji is still in a low level state, but the number of known cases is rising steadily and the risks exist for fast developing widespread epidemic. By mid-2004 there were 182 confirmed cases of HIV /AIDS in Fiji. But given the limited surveillance, this is almost certainly a large underestimation. You all know that with the WHO, you have to add 10% to that. So the figure for a population of 800,000 is alarming. Of the known infections, 62% are male, and 82% of these are indigenous Fijian population. The main route of infection is sexual activity. There has been only one known case of intravenous transmission, although the first confirmed HIV positive person was infected through blood transfusion. Blood supply used to be considered safe in Fiji, although there is now some doubt that this is so because of that. But the situation is improving. Of the 13 pregnancies of women known to be HIV positive, there have been 6 or 7 still waiting confirmation transmissions of the virus to the infant. Four women were lost to follow up, and two babies were born HIV negative. Eight of the 10 known cases of mother to child transmission have occurred since 1999. The main reported mode of transmission has been heterosexual at 85%. But there is also a considerable level of homosexual and male bisexual activity in Fiji. So that is the situation regarding MDG 6 and MDG 1. Time does not permit me to cover the others. I will rest my case there. Thank you.

MS. NDO EVINA ANGELINE, FAAPPD:

I am Honourable Ndo Evina, Member of Parliament in Cameroon and Secretary General of the local group of parliamentarians in Cameroon in charge of population and development issues. To come to FAAPPD I can say

very quickly that a lot of efforts are being made by our governments, our countries, members of FAAPPD in terms of adopting bills on the issues that are addressed in the MDGs; that is, reproductive and sexual health, HIV/AIDS, women's rights and also by elaborating national plans in compliance with international goals. Apart from the efforts made by governments, we also have a regional foundation led by African first ladies fighting against AIDS, taking care of people living with AIDS, taking care of needy people, and the headquarters is based in Cameroon. But we still have a lot to do about the relation between population and MDGs; we foresee two major problems that come as limiting all the efforts that the governments and first ladies are making, and of course international organizations.

The first one is the ignorance of the MDGs by the target population just because this target population is inaccessible or they are not quite aware of the importance of the fight against poverty that alleviates their poverty. This awareness needs to be built very strongly through mass communication in all areas. If you come to Cameroon, for instance, you will

see that, as the predecessor speaker was saying, people in urban area are quite well informed because they are accessible, but those in remote areas are not always in the picture.

The second difficulty here is somehow the MDGs can appear as not urgent as other priorities for the remote areas. We are talking about poverty. We are talking about people living in poor conditions. This population covers almost across the region, 80%. That is people living in inaccessible places and for those people... if they do not have roads to go to health centres, if they do not have drinking water, if they do not have electricity, it is very difficult to go and convince them of the necessity of considering the MDGs as priorities even though we think they are priorities.

So we have here two sets of priorities to just tackle together. We should not leave aside the first set, that is the needy, the basic needs that as I said, because somebody who cannot move from his village to a health centre will never know about AIDS. He will never know about prevention about AIDS, he will never know about fighting for women's rights in terms of



From left: Dr. Monasterio, Ms. Angeline and Mr. Nailatikau

reproductive and sexual health. So what we need across Africa is a strong partnership to help us bring people to get involved, to bring people to get aware of the danger of these problems that are altogether the causes of poverty. I think I will stop there for the moment, and will continue with the other subjects. Thank you.

DR. JOAQUÍN MONASTERIO, IAPG:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, members of parliament, UNFPA representatives and distinguished guests. My name is Joaquín Monasterio. I am a medical doctor and senator from Bolivia, and I am very pleased to be here this evening. The subject of our discussion is extremely important to us, especially for Latin American and Caribbean countries, and in a country like Bolivia, where most sectors of the population live in extreme poverty and hunger.

For a region like Latin America, as it has been repeated in numerous occasions, the MDGs are extremely important. The eradication of poverty cannot be achieved without addressing the population and reproductive health issues. In Latin America and the Caribbean countries, where health services are not equally distributed, population issues must be addressed from a rights-based approach. Focusing on meeting the needs of vulnerable groups such as women living in isolated, rural, and poor communities, indigenous or minority people, immigrant workers, and as well as adolescents.

In my country, for example, indigenous women are especially vulnerable and often neglected by formal health system. They are in special need of services to promote safe motherhood and good sexual and reproductive health. As you know, Bolivia has the third highest maternal mortality ratio in Latin America. With 229 deaths per 100,000 live births, and more than 40% of women still give birth without the assistance of skilled attendant. Although Bolivia is stepping up efforts and expanding its

safe motherhood programs and laws like the SUMI. SUMI is the universal health security for mothers and children. This security directs support to increase access to contraceptives, and other reproductive health programs are still needed.

Like many countries in the region, we have great challenges to empower women and eliminate gender inequalities. Population and developing issues are extremely important for regions like mine. For approximately 534 million people live and the economy has not kept pace with population growth of 1.46%. Last, the achievement of the MDGs can be very instrumental in helping us address our poverty problems, but these efforts must include insuring access to reproductive health and right services. This is my presentation.

MS. RUTH GENNER, IEPFPD PRESIDENT:

I would like to take out two of the goals of the MDGs to give examples where reproductive and sexual health is the most important. First of all, it is Goal 5 to improve maternal health. If you imagine that more women died this year in the context of their pregnancy than people died almost a year ago in the terrible catastrophe of the tsunami. Then you see that this is a big crisis. It is a silent catastrophe taking place each year, and the media do not run and report on this because it is silent. But we can not accept neither the fact that so many women die, nor that so many women risk their life during a pregnancy. So this is one of the aspects that we have to take measures in the MDGs to achieve this goal to improve maternal health.

I see that Japan is the best country when you go for the marks for maternal health. It has the least deaths in childhood with women, and on the other hand, it has the highest life expectancy of all the countries in the world. So Japan did a very good job in this. I congratulate you.

The other example I want to take is Goal 5 of the MDGs. It is to fight against HIV/AIDS. We heard that the infection rate is still very high as well as the mortality. I agree that money is needed to fight against this illness. But also that is what I am asking especially from the countries from the South, that it is not only money but it is the contribution they can give. I will give three examples. When I say I ask for your contribution, it means I would like to see a feverish engagement in the field of good governance. Secondly, I expect openness in the decisions and discussions about sexual relationships because when it comes to reproductive health, it has a lot to do with behaviour. As long as behaviour is taboo, how can we actively and effectively prevent HIV/AIDS? And to break these taboos—this does not cost any money.

I have a third point I would like to raise, and that is the position and values of women. As long as women are not regarded as equals of men and do not have equal rights, equal education, more women will be affected with sexual related illnesses and will not be appreciated as highly as men. Women will therefore get less care and less attendance. If anybody in this room can name a country that is treating women better than men, I would like to go there and study what the government did for them. So I come to the conclusion that openness for good governance is very important in insuring donor countries that their resources are not wasted. Secondly, openness of government for addressing relationships does not cost anything—maybe some advertisements in mass media—but they make a big change. Thirdly, establishing equal rights does not cost money but brings us all closer to better maternal health, and brings us closer to fight poverty. Thank you.

MR. BASSEY EWA-HENSHAW, PGA:

Let me thank the organizers, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. Forums like this are

very important. Very important because it gives the opportunity, and especially like the UN Summit, it gives the opportunity for us to focus on certain important issues, but more importantly, it provides opportunity for countries like ours, for independent people, to tell the heads of governments that people are suffering. If you are a minister and you went to Nigeria or Cameroon maybe, and told your head of government, your president, look, half of your people are living in poverty, you will be fired. So the UN Summit and forums like this are very important for that reason.

And I think the connection between population and development is well established. What you do with your population determines how quickly you can develop. Now as far as the MDGs are concerned for us, the most important is the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. Once you are able to raise the standard of living of people, it becomes possible for them to afford education, good health services, and all the other things that follow. So the first thing for an African nation is how to remove poverty and hunger.

And for me the challenges for this are many, but I will just focus on maybe two or three. The sincerity and commitment of both national and international government; and for a country like ours, corruption. Let me tell you why I am talking about sincerity and commitment. I am going to use as I go on, examples of Nigeria because that is the country I know well. You must have heard recently that Nigeria was granted debt forgiveness by the Paris Club. The small letters in that debt forgiveness requires that Nigeria will immediately pay 6 billion dollars and then within 12 months will be allowed to buy the rest of the debt with another 6 billion. In practical terms what that means with that within 12 months Nigeria will be required to pay 12 billion dollars of its savings in order to get out of debt. Now when you have wiped out your savings, where is the money to

invest in education, in health services, and all these other issues?

The second point is corruption, and corruption unfortunately in Nigeria was elevated to a very high difficult position during long years of military rule. I am glad to say that we are doing something about it with government, NGOs, those of us in parliament—we are tackling it as furiously and as seriously as we can. Also I am sure you would have learned about a governor in Nigeria that is at the moment facing trial in the United Kingdom. A few very important people have been fired from their offices. They are facing trial; the former head of the police force and some of my colleagues from the National Assembly. Some ministers have been fired. That gives an indication that there is serious effort to deal with corruption. I personally also head up an NGO called People Against Corruption, which we have just established. That, essentially, is to try and develop what we call a corruption perception index. We are giving out questionnaires to people to indicate to us what parts of government, what levels of government, they think or they perceive depending on the dealings they have had with, to be the most corrupt. I would publish these and give the people an opportunity to come and defend themselves or say what they are going to do about it.

The other reason I talk about sincerity is this. The US, for example, subsidizes agriculture

because that is the area where its citizens are most vulnerable. In Nigeria, although we produce oil, that is the area where our people are most vulnerable because once you increase the price of any fuel product, it raises the inflation in practically all sectors of the economy. Our power situation is very poor, so industrial production depends heavily on power generating plants. So when you increase the price of diesel, you are putting prices on all commodities that are produced. Yet we are being advised by certain international agencies that the best thing to do must be to charge international prices for products and nearly half the population lives in poverty under \$1 a day. So you tell me if you increase these prices, you increase inflation, what are you going to have as an effect? You are going to put a lot more people in poverty.

The other point is that we are also being told about right-sizing and down-sizing our civil service. Quite true; it is over bloated. But the point is, at this point in time, if you right-size, and right-sizing means remove those that are not useful, which is the proper thing to do, under normal circumstances, a good policy. But when you put a lot more people out of work, what is the effect? Increase poverty. That is why I keep emphasizing that the single most important thing for us is eradication of poverty and hunger. I think I will stop there for now. Thank you.

SESSION 2

Parliamentarians' Role toward Achieving MDGs and ICPD Goals ~Regional Perspectives and Issues~

MS. WAKAKO HIRONAKA, MODERATOR:

Thank you very much. Thank you for all of your insightful remarks on the difficult issues of poverty, AIDS, and all the others that each of your countries faces. Now I would like to change the perspective a little bit and turn to the discussion of what roles parliamentarians can play in poverty reduction and population. What are some of the circumstances and issues specific to the region, and what measures must parliamentarians take in order to overcome these challenges. Some of you already touched upon this subject, but in any case, I would like now Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw to start this time from this right hand side on please.

MR. BASSEY EWA-HENSHAW, PGA:

Thank you Madame Chairperson. Yes, we as parliamentarians have an important role to play. The job of parliamentarians is to make laws and to make appropriations. And we try to make appropriations in response to those areas where we see the need and where we think the government should focus its attention. There is also something called oversight, so we try to monitor what government is doing and how they are doing it with the budget that has been appropriated.

Unfortunately for us, I have to keep going back to poverty. After two heads of state summits in Burkina Faso and South Africa in the last two

years, it appears that the poverty situation in Nigeria has become a little more difficult. Now, I chair the senate committee that deals with employment and labour, so on a daily basis, I deal with problems affecting people with unemployment. What I have tried to do in my case in particular, for example, is to focus on areas where we can put money and have the greatest effect. Nigeria used to have something called "trade task centres". I will give you practical examples. And those were neglected for over 30 years. Our trade task centres are small centres where artisans are trained. You know, brick layers, carpenters, electricians, and what have you. What we've done is to try now to resuscitate them so that we can train people who can become self-employed and do not have to wait for employment.

I know also that we have passed a number of legislations dealing with revision of employment. We have certain programs; that is what we call the NDE, National Directorate of Employment. We have NPEP, National Poverty Eradication Program, and so on and so forth. What we have discovered is that although there are all these programs going on, they do not seem to be coordinated. So we are now trying to organize ourselves in such a way to first organize a summit, an employment summit, where we can bring everything together and distil it and try to build relationships between the various arms in agriculture, industry, revision

of low cost finance, empowerment of women, the setting up of women's cooperatives and so on to empower them and all of that so that in the end we can see how we can get the best results, or get a more effective response from all the effort that government is putting in.

We have some difficulties which I think I should explain. As a legislator, and the Constitution of Nigeria as it stands today, it is difficult to achieve effective separation of powers. We run the American system where we have a president and his executive, the legislature and the judiciary. Unfortunately for us, the way our Constitution is structured at the moment, the legislature is the only arm of government that must depend on the executive before it gets paid salary. Before I get my salary, the president must approve. So that creates difficulty in that he who pays the piper dictates the tune. Sometimes you get your arm twisted. But we are in the process of reviewing the Constitution, and we hope that that will be sorted out.

There are a number of psychological and cultural prejudices which we are also trying to

tackle, against women in particular, and against HIV/AIDS sufferers. I give you a joke. Just two weeks before I came here, there was a bill to deal with the rights of widows because in certain sections of Nigeria, when a man dies, his brother or his family or relation can as of right inherit the wife and his property. And sometimes if they do not inherit her, they take away the property and leave her with the children. This bill came for second reading and we had a very heated debate on the matter. Some of my colleagues were afraid to support the bill because if they did, because of the cultural prejudices in their constituency areas where they represent, they are likely to lose their seats. "You come and tell me that when my brother dies, I cannot take over his wife and his property?" "Is that what I sent you to go and do to represent me in the parliament? You are not going back". So those are the kinds of prejudices. But we hope, we are working at it.

We are working at things like early marriages. That, people are beginning to see the problem, because when you give a girl out for marriage and she begins childbearing at age 11, 12, 13, she can suffer from all of these dangerous



From left: Mr. Ewa-Henshaw, Ms. Genner and Dr. Monasterio

illnesses. And people are beginning to realize that perhaps it does not make sense to unnecessarily put your so-called wife in harm's way because it is a tradition. So that put together with the fact that we now have a universal basic education, which is trying to make primary education compulsory. We hope that it will lengthen the time that girls can go and get educated before they get married. I rest my case there, second round, thank you.

MS. RUTH GENNER, IEPFPD PRESIDENT:

Of course the situation in Europe is completely different from the one that you did tell already, and I must say that even the population issue in Europe is very different from the one in developing countries, as we face that our fertility rate is being lower and lower. This is more the concern of politicians in Europe, that we have less and less children. So when it comes to population politics in relation to development; that means that we have to sensitize at first, our politicians for the perspective of the developing countries of the situation of population there.

The role of politicians is an important one when it comes to resources, when it comes to spending money. When you just come with this international perspective, you will not get many politicians. So what we try is also to focus on the national level, because even with us on the national level, you have problems regarding population issues. But they are, of course, on a very different level than the ones you said. For us, for instance, it is most important, I speak now about Switzerland which may be a bit similar to the neighbour states, the access for young people to family planning or in Switzerland we had a referendum on motherhood insurance, which finally passed. The European Union already had this. I think in Switzerland we had the first ever worldwide ever having taken referendum about same-sex marriage, which passed as well. So this is in

the right aspect a big step forward.

At the moment now, we are fighting for day-care for children, because this will mean that more mothers can combine their profession and being mothers, so that is the important issues within Europe.

Then of course we have to sensitize the politicians on the international level about the programme of Action of Cairo, which is really a wholesome approach. As you have said, education is important, access for health services and information is most important. And for rich countries it is most important to give resources and that is what we have to do within our budget. So that is about the role of politicians in the parliament and you have to get them on the various levels. Thank you.

DR. JOAQUÍN MONASTERIO, IAPG:

I think that I am sure that everybody here thinks that parliamentarians can play a key role in achieving the goals of different international conferences, including the Millennium Development Goals, not only because we can legislate and pass laws to improve the quality of life of women and children in our countries and regions, but we have the capacity to play a very important oversight role and to make sure that our governments are following up to their commitments. Our role as advocates is also most important for being the link between the people and the government; the national government or the municipal government in our countries.

We must find ways to approve laws and programs that specifically address the poverty related issues. And as I have mentioned before, reproductive health and rights should be put on top of our parliamentary agendas. Only with the support of parliamentarians we can build the political will that is necessary to eradicate poverty. For example, in this order we are

organizing the second conference of medical parliamentarians of Latin America and Caribbean in Santa Cruz, in La Sierra, Bolivia. That we have named health, access to rich equity, in which we expect will come to approximately 60 members of parliament and important personalities of the UN organizations like WHO, FAO, UNICEF and the UNFPA. To discuss issues about population and development, reproductive health and sexual rights, or the role of parliamentarians in poverty reduction, I think that if you talk about population, we are talking about poverty in our countries in Latin America, many of our countries. If we talk about reproductive health and sexual rights, we are talking about poverty. Then all the issues related to poverty reduction that we can debate in our meetings and our parliament is an obligation to us. For that I think the role of parliamentarians to reduce the poverty and to see population development like necessary or important issues is what we have to do. Thank you very much.

Ms. NDO EVINA ANGELINE, FAAPPD:

I think there is no doubt that parliamentarians have a very important role to play in poverty reduction because they are representing the people living in poor conditions, who elected them. But there are a few problems related to this role that parliamentarians have to play. The first one has to do with capacity building for parliamentarians themselves in general and specifically on MDGs. Do they really master, are they conversant with the MDG goals to allow them to play fully their role?

The other problem is the lack of means for parliamentarians to act in the field. When I say “means”, I see financial means, because you can only tackle certain issues if this is financially possible. In our context, constitution has assigned two roles to parliamentarians: legislate and control government action. Because of this second role, which is to control government

action, parliamentarians do not have budget, so they cannot act freely on the field. You cannot be a budget executor and a controller at the same time. Another problem with regards to “means” is the autonomy of exerting this control. Do parliamentarians have enough autonomy to fully play their role? Sometimes this is very difficult because the obstacle here is poverty of parliamentarians themselves. So we are here in a sort of vicious cycle. We want to help people reduce poverty, but we are poor ourselves, and it makes things very difficult. So you see you find parliamentarians who cannot act freely, who cannot question government freely when it comes to question time, for instance, at the National Assembly, just because they fear to be refused in the service that they go and ask members of government. This of course makes them dependent on these members.

When we talk of partnership, as I said earlier, we think that these partnerships should be sincere as the senator said. They should be sincere. So far all plans are being elaborated and implemented between international donors and governments. We think that parliamentarians should also be included in the implementation. Why not elaboration of certain plans, certain projects on the field, so as to insure that the MDGs are really tackled, are really looked after, and are really achieved? At the regional level, let’s say if we have to look for ways of improving the situation we need to really strengthen the communication between members of parliament within the region in terms of experience sharing amongst the countries and also in terms of each local situation where we shall take care of the specifications in each country.

So a final point is on the regional perspective. I think if we consider that we think globally, as referred to the international strategies, we think that at more regional level. We can come out with a set of objectives that are easy to

implement on the field. We will say smart objectives: that is, specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound, all these to be able to implement, to follow up, to report, and we need support from international organizations. Thank you.

**RATU EPELI NAILATIKAU, AFPPD
VICE-CHAIRPERSON:**

I think I have covered parts of this subject in the first presentation. Let me just, as an introduction, say that the strategic plan 2003, 2005, Fiji gives prominence to the need to alleviate poverty and arrest its growth. In Fiji, one of the key strategies is to insure timely compilation and analysis of statistics on poverty. As the non-availability of many of the statistics required for the MDGs indicators suggest, it is difficult to maintain any coherent or credible policy in the absence of key information about the extent and characteristics of poverty in Fiji.

However, the poverty MDGs, the only indicators that are of doubtful relevance to Fiji, is the proportion of the population below \$1 per day. This statistic is a measurement of absolute poverty. In Fiji, absolute poverty is rare, though it does exist and relative poverty is a more relevant basis for measurement. Wealth and other opportunities are unevenly distributed here in Fiji, and it is the clear disadvantage of particular groups of people that needs to be identified and addressed. Now, there are many other missing MDGs data that will probably be provided once the 2002 and 2004 household and income survey, HIS, are analyzed, but more information is still needed. A great investment needs to be made in producing and managing data relating to poverty in Fiji, especially so that MDGs and other standard indicators can be disaggregated by area and groups of particular vulnerability. The Fiji Plan of Action for Nutrition that was endorsed by the Cabinet in 1998 and proposed to address the problem of underweight children was not implemented

because of lack of commitment by major stakeholders. It was however reactivated in late 2003. New information on nutritional status will be available after the national nutrition survey is fully analyzed this year.

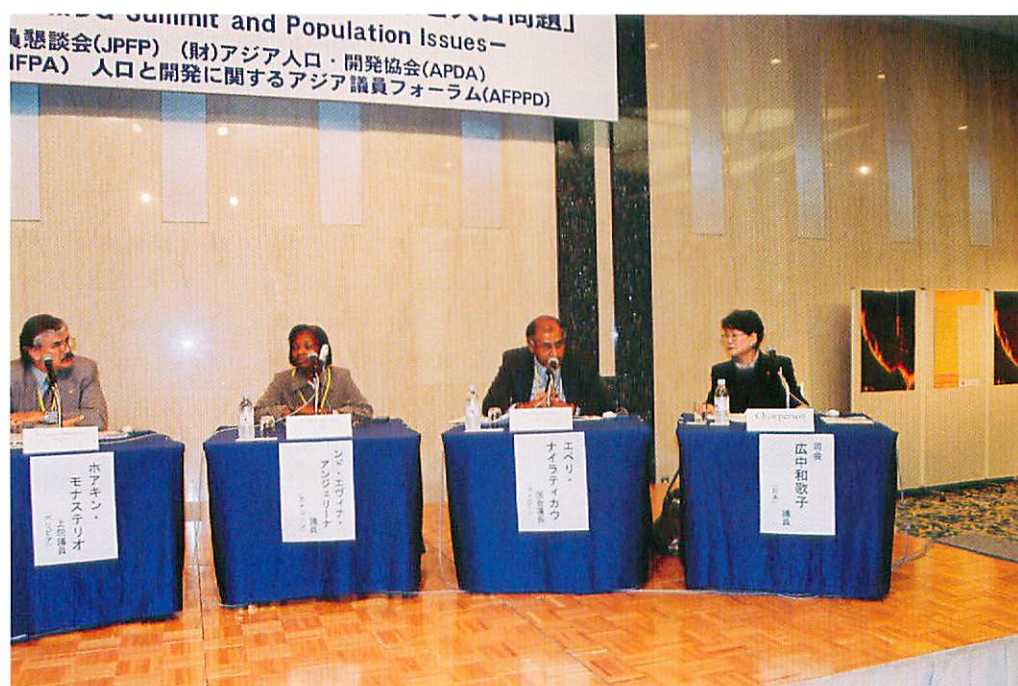
Now as for the roles of the parliamentarians, I think the roles of parliamentarians in Fiji are similar to the ones that have been covered by my colleagues who have spoken before me. On the legislative side, there has been an introduction of the employment bill. This is an all-encompassing bill, and it covers a whole host of subjects, including persons living with HIV/AIDS and full pay for women on maternity leave. Now this has been promised by many governments. In fact, all the past governments of Fiji have promised to legislate about full pay for women on maternity leave. None has done it, all hearsay. This government has introduced the bill; it has had its first reading in the House. It has now gone to a sector committee, and the sector committee will be open to the public for those who wish to table their views to the sector committee before the committee reports back to the house.

Now what this has caused is a big outcry by those who employ women. They have already said that this will bust their budget, but the legislators, the parliamentarians are determined to get this bill through. I do not have any doubt that the bill will go through. It will not only help women, it will help the family and it will help reduce poverty. The argument that is being put forward that when a woman is at her most vulnerable time, she does not have to worry about the money that is coming to the family if she is the sole breadwinner. So this is one of the roles that the parliamentarians are playing in Fiji. The other role that the parliamentarians have always advised the parliamentarians regarding this role is to visit their constituencies consistently and constantly. Many parliamentarians, it happens all over the world, they go to their constituencies during

election time, and after election time they are never seen. And they wonder why when it comes to the next election, they are not in the House. I know some of the politicians are very good at this. They visit their constituencies regularly, they know the problems in that area, they know right across the board, which are poor families, which families need assistance in education, assistance for hospital aid, while some are not that good. But I know the Prime Minister is very determined that his government is to improve the performance of his team.

I would just like to broach a subject that was raised by my colleague from Nigeria. For us in Fiji, the separation of powers between legislature, the executive, and the legal fraternity, is separate, completely separate. We work on our own. The rulings that are made in the House by the speaker cannot be challenged by the courts. One parliamentarian tried to do that, he was

advised against it by many legal people. He went ahead with it, the judge ruled against him. It is a separation of powers. Long may it remain so. So for us, while we have the same problems as the others, with corruption and that there is a fight against corruption at the moment. We have a very open press. They are not hesitant to put in the papers what they think is happening. I think this is all for the good and if we get the parliamentarians to keep on both the Upper House and the Lower House. We have two Houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives, to consistently visit their areas, their constituencies; we will have an improvement in the poverty figures in Fiji. I do not have any doubt about that, but the work and the example must come from the parliamentarians. The whole thinking behind the MDGs is that it must start from the top. That means it is the parliamentarians. I rest my case.



From left: Dr. Monasterio, Ms. Angeline, Mr. Nailatikau, Ms. Hironaka

SESSION 3

Population Issues and Tasks for the 2006 IPCI-ICPD

MS. WAKAKO HIRONAKA, MODERATOR:

Thank you very much. Finally, as many of you may know, ICPI is planning to hold next meeting in Bangkok 2006. Now I would like each panellist to share your expectations for the Bangkok conference, and your expectations for Japan on tackling the global population problems and poverty reduction. Who would like to start? Maybe from that side, please.

MR. BASSEY EWA-HENSHAW, PGA:

Thank you Madame Chairperson. I think that again I can only commend the International Conference on the Program of Action of what they are doing and just continue to do what you are doing, which is peer-to-peer discussion, exchange of ideas, educating some of us, and helping us to learn what is happening in other parliaments. I think also that this and similar conferences do a lot in terms of keeping the MDGs and the ICPD Program of Action in focus because it is important to always make sure that these issues are being looked at and are being addressed, so they are always in the front burner. That way, governments do not just sweep them aside. I think also that you have an important part to play because we are working to develop a global consensus and that means in all our different parliaments, we must be able to be speaking the same language, saying the same things, to our various governments, trying to design similar legislations and so on and so forth.

Therefore that kind of consensus building and exchange is very useful. I think also that doing the sort of thing that PGA is doing is very good. In November, PGA will be organizing with the Ireland group, a conference on migration. Now, I see that topic again from the point of view of the development goals and population and development. If we are able to draw attention of the developed nations to the fact that once we are able to get, or if we are able to get developing countries to eradicate poverty, then the problem of migration will be solved. You will no longer have economic refugees. You will not have people trying to cross the Sahara and Straits of Gibraltar to get to Europe. So it is one thing that I want to recommend to ICPD. They should look at what PGA is doing or will be doing in November.

Also, helping us to discuss and focus on those challenges that we have outlined, how they can be addressed and how they can be resolved. And finally, I do not know what you can do about this, I do not think there is anything you can do, because our own democracy is so young. We are into the 6th year of our democratic experience. The turnover of parliamentarians is very high. There are two reasons for this. One is because Nigeria is such a diverse nation and we have tried to develop the strategy of insuring that power is not concentrated in one section of the country. So we have something like taking turns. So in many cases, even when you have a good parliamentarian who does his work well and he represents the people well,

some other person or candidate from his section will say, "Look, now you've had your turn. Now it is ours, we will have our turn". It is totally different from what you have in the U.S. I have met senators who have been in the Senate for 30 years or more. That gives them experience. There is nothing that you can talk about that they cannot address.

The other, of course, is this issue of dealing with your constituents. There are certain expectations as a representative, which unfortunately does not apply to the executive. The ministers that the president has are appointed, so technically they have no responsibility to the electorate. But if you are in parliament, you must be going to your constituency regularly. And I know that every time I go to my constituency, no matter what amount of money that I take there, I will not be able to bring back a penny. If you don't do that, you don't get re-elected. Because of the excruciating level of poverty, once you get there, somebody will come, saying "My mother is sick" or "I have no money for hospital bill". "School has started, but I cannot afford to pay school fees". "Somebody died, and I need money for funeral", and it goes on and on and on and on. And because you are the representative, you are almost under obligation. If you don't do it, it means you are not representing me well. That leads to the other bigger problem of corruption. Where does the money come from? Of course you cannot afford to do all those things. So the turnover in parliament tends to be high. We hope that as our democracy stabilizes, some of these issues can be addressed and we will have people staying longer. My friend here was talking about perhaps seeing how we can host this in Africa. I would love to, but after Thailand next year, we are talking about 2008. How am I sure I am going to be in parliament? If I am not there, then you will not have continuity. You know, there is a break. Whoever else is coming, starts out fresh, so there is a problem of the turnover of parliamentarians, and I don't know how you

can deal with that. We just pray. Thank you.

MS. RUTH GENNER, IEPFPD PRESIDENT

The first point made by my colleague, I would just underline. I mean, parliamentarians have to see that the government goes after the MDGs and allocates 0.7% of its GDP for ODA if possible, or at least that it's not cut. That is, at the moment, the problem. We see in Europe that in all the countries where we have parliamentary groups for population and development, that there at least have not been made cuts, but budget cuts on developing aid. And of course, also with interventions in parliament, you can make as a parliamentarian that there is a high priority for population issues for their development issues. And also the administration dealing with these issues do not feel at the backyard of the administration. They must have a priority. So therefore, I think as I said before, sensibilization of the parliamentarians for the issues is most important, and study tours, I guess, are first of all the best instrument to sensitize people because seeing is believing.

Conferences as the one we are facing in Bangkok, in my view have the importance of making exchange of ideas and problems and we see that we are in very different levels. For us from Europe it is also a motivation. When I hear your impressions, your stories, your problems of everyday, this is also a motivation for European parliamentarians to go on and if we can tell our parliamentary group about this, I think this is giving them a good idea that we need to work. In conferences, as you also said, we have to mainstream our strategies. Going along with governments, going along with the NGOs following also the MDGs and this gives us all the more power to actually achieve our goals, and therefore I think it is most important to have conferences in the term of two years because even in Europe when you have elections, you will lose part of parliament, and

you will have new people coming in, so it's a coming and going so you have to get new people coming, new people sensitized for the goals and the work.

As you said, I also feel that as parliamentarians we have to go to our constituency in Europe to tell that if you spend the money for developing aid, that this is going to the source, to the roots of migration. I feel that many parliamentarians in my country, right wing people, they said we do not want to send the money out of the country, but at the same time they feel threatened by migration. I see also that parliamentarians have their job to explain how things can be tackled, so I see that our role and also the role of conference is that we get fed with more information and motivation. Thank you.

DR. JOAQUÍN MONASTERIO, IAPG:

Well, as Senator Henshaw said, democratic systems are not so stabilized, so they do not have stability, but also indeed they have stability. In my country we have an election next December. I do not know if I am going to be in

Bangkok next year, but I am sure that the next IPCI Conference will be very important to continue our efforts. The achievement of the ICPD goals and now the MDGs, we have even stronger reason to meet as peers so that we can also commit ourselves to step up our efforts.

Not only to increase funding, but also to make sure that we reach the goals we have set. So, the next IPCI conference should enable us to come up with specific plans of action that, as parliamentarians, we can follow in each of our countries. In Bangkok, participants will have the opportunity to discuss the ways to mobilize resources; to analyze the national strategies to achieve universal access to reproductive health and to complement efforts to make more effective the role of parliamentarians in achieving Millennium Development Goals. I hope so. Thank you.

MS. NDO EVINA ANGELINE, FAAPPD:

I would like to thank the Honourable Senator for mentioning too many expectations that constituents put on Parliamentarians, as what is real valid for Nigeria is exactly the same in Cameroon and in the rest of Africa. The



constituents sort of blackmail Parliamentarians because they say we elect you to represent us to reduce poverty to solve all our problems, you are not doing it. We will not elect you next time. But I also believe this is a problem of communication because in Cameroon for instance, constituents were used to being told lies and Parliamentarians would come and promise things that they knew they would never realize and this has become a habit. In the end, when he has not been able to achieve anything because sincerely he cannot, as I said, they do not have budget, and as a consequence they cannot realize those things on the field that is building road, bringing in electricity, so on and so forth.

But to reverse this tendency, I think we have to put an emphasis on communication, education, information, plus plus plus. The question is what IPCI can do to support members of parliament in those conditions. Also, for 2006 IPCI tasks, I think these should include and integrate local specificities for each region. UNFPA, local offices, and other United Nations organizations based, located in the region, can give a strong hand provided of course they are asked to do so.

In conclusion, for FAAPPD region, we need support. That region needs support in terms of staff and minimum budget to operate and fulfil its mission, which is to coordinate and supervise the forum for Arab and Africa parliamentary population and development. Thank you very much.

RATU EPELI NAILATIKAU, AFPPD VICE-CHAIRPERSON:

Ladies and gentlemen. The tasks for 2004 International Parliamentarian Conference. I believe, and I have emphasized this to the parliamentarians in Fiji regarding ICPD and the Millennium Development Goals. The year 2015 is only a target and 2015 as I said this

morning, is only 10 years away. The thing is, if we just look at 2015 with indicators that we have now regarding the Millennium Development Goals and ICPD, there could be the tendency that when we reach 2015 we all throw our arms up into the air and say, "Oh, we have done it" or "We have not done it". And what is going to happen to all the good work? And there has been some good work, good determined work, good cooperation, both from inside the country, from outside the country, from international organization that has gone into the Millennium Development Goals. And I have always emphasized we should look beyond 2015.

Whilst 2015 was a target that was given, and a very good target at that, I think it was an ambitious target, and areas will achieve their aims. I would have loved to have given this talk sometime in 12 months time, because sometime next year we are going to have a conference on HIV/AIDS in Papua New Guinea, that is the Pacific Parliamentarians Assembly on Population and Development. We will have a conference on HIV/AIDS in Papua New Guinea. We had the first one in 2002 in Fiji. Parliamentarians on the Role of Pacific Parliamentarians in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS—I am the chair of that as you know. I intend during that conference for all the countries who are members to give an update on the status of the MDGs including MDG 6, which is HIV/AIDS. The focus will be on that, but we will be pushing for an update of all the other MDGs, that is from all the island countries in the Pacific. We have started work on this and I hope to obtain a full report on the status of HIV/AIDS, but as I said earlier we would like to look beyond 2015 and if we have not achieved the targets, which is likely for us. That is that Millennium Development Goal 1, poverty, and Millennium Development Goal 6, which is HIV/AIDS.

What do we do? I have given the reasons why we have not been able to achieve those goals.

The reasons have also been given. If we do such and such, we can achieve these goals. I have spoken about more input from government. That is the main thing. We look at the approach to HIV/AIDS, we look at the approaches to solving poverty with the better data, I am sure we can achieve HIV/AIDS Goal 1 and HIV/AIDS Goal 6 as well. But my main thrust,

as you realized by now, is we should look beyond. We expect a good stock take next year of where we stand, but then we take that and look beyond 2015. And I think then we will be on a better focus and a better path to success. Thank you.

REMARKS

MR. SHIN SAKURAI
VICE-CHAIRPERSON, JPFP

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I want to say “Welcome to Japan and thank you for coming to Japan”. It has been some time that I have been with you, and I sat here and was very much moved listening to what you had to say. Since we began meetings like this, I felt that your activities are being rooted in your communities and you are playing a central role in your countries, in your regions and I was impressed at what I have heard. I felt very encouraged.

We call our parliamentarians’ diplomacy as “kitchen-door diplomacy”. In Japan, you have a formal front door that guests are welcome to come in, and you have a back door, or a kitchen door where families come in. I think parliamentarians’ diplomacy is really like the “back-door diplomacy”, or “kitchen-door diplomacy”. Why do I call it that? Because I think intergovernmental diplomacy would have to represent national interests, and that is the official, what we know as diplomacy. But quite apart from that front-door diplomacy, we need to get together and solve problems that the official front-door diplomacy does not always succeed in solving. We sometimes discuss the issues with similar values. We may also have similar experiences or different experiences. So sharing that information is very important for us parliamentarians to take a concerted action in order to apply pressure to the governments. This is what this country is doing, and I think we parliamentarians have a different position from the government, and I think it is effective

for us parliamentarians to get together and discuss issues quite apart from the government;

that is why I call it the back-door diplomacy, or the kitchen diplomacy, and I hope we can make more of this.



Sixty years ago, Japan lost the Second World War and those who were living overseas all came back to Japan. Japan, after all, is comprised of small islands off the eastern continent of Asia. Many people returned, but there was no food, or no place to live. And for 10 years we tried to produce agricultural products. Urban cities were destroyed and for 10 years after the end of the war, we put our heads together to rebuild our nation. We said, “we’ll work not 12 hours, but 8 hours as the Europeans are doing, and 8-hour work should be enough to make us live a proper human life. We should not use people like slaves”. We discussed having minimum standards of work, and the kind of country we wanted to build. Ten years later, they were written into laws. Local governments as well as the central government decided to do what the private sector could not do, and that is what the Prime Minister says; Mr. Koizumi says what the government cannot do, the private sector should do. But after the war, we all felt that the government should take the initiative. And as a result, it took us 30 to 40 years to rebuild the country to what it is today.

We have gone through what you are perhaps now going through, so we may have from our experience something useful to you. And as the Swiss parliamentarian has told us, we find very many issues in our country, and the colleague from Nigeria was telling the story about how do we negotiate with the environment that is given to us. I think we have got to wrestle with the environment that we find ourselves in. How do we learn from other countries so that we can improve the situation of our country as it is. I think that is the mission of us parliamentarians.

Lastly, let me say this. The mega-earthquake that shook Pakistan, and their damages are

what one nation cannot put together, change or improve the situation. So that is when we all must put our shoulders together and parliamentarians would have to pressure our own governments to help other countries when they are in need. Let's do it in a timely manner. In November, I am going to lead a delegation and visit the region where tsunami destroyed. We should have gone much earlier, but that is the kind of thing we should be doing for each other, exchanging information and helping with each other when other people need help. You really had a wonderful discussion, and I have been so encouraged and so grateful.



In the middle: Mr. Sakurai making a comment

REMARKS

Ms. KAYOKO SHIMIZU
SECRETARY-GENERAL, JPFP

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I have been listening to the panel discussion, and it is my great honour and pleasure to be able to meet with the parliamentarians from all over the world. Listening to your discussion, there seems to be many common issues. But regarding population issues, as Ms. Genner from Switzerland said, we have a lot in common for the situations in Europe and Japan, but it may be different from other countries and regions. But there are still many similarities and common issues. Of the MDG issues, poverty, maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS and life and health issues for those people in fragile situations and women's empowerment issues — various issues have been tackled. But these are the issues that cannot be handled and solved by just one country. We should try to solve these issues by cooperation using this kind of parliamentarians' forum.

Fortunately, the World Summit was held at the United Nations in September this year. And I have here with me the document that lists up the achievements of the UN. This consensus on reproductive health—it became the consensus in ICPD 1994—its significance was incorporated into this document at this World Summit. And from the Japanese government's point of view, we believe this is something that we should welcome because we have been supporting it. Japan had been a major donor country in the world, but because of the economic recession, we have not been as helpful as before recently. But nowadays we have been recovering from recession, and as Prime Minister Koizumi

mentioned at July's Gleneagles Summit, Japan's ODA is going to be doubled in the next five years.

He also announced that ODA to the African region will be doubled in the next three-year period.

MDGs are not just an issue for developing nations. We in Japan have a lot of issues. One of the issues is that we do not have a lot of female parliamentarians in decision-making of the Diet. The other day we had the general election of the Lower House, and we had 43 new female parliamentarians elected. Still, it is not so many. With support from these female parliamentarians, we hope that the issues of reproductive health and MDGs are going to be communicated and shared among various parliamentarians. Thank you very much.



Right: Ms. Shimizu

ANNEX

ANNEX 1

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: TARGETS AND INDICATORS

GOALS AND TARGETS (FROM THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION)	INDICATORS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS
GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER TARGET 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	1a. Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day ^a 1b. Poverty headcount ratio (% of population below the national poverty line) 2. Poverty gap ratio [incidence x depth of poverty] 3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
TARGET 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION TARGET 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	4. Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age 5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption 6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education 7a. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 7b. Primary completion rate 8. Literacy rate of 15..24 year-olds
GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN TARGET 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015	9. Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education 10. Ratio of literate women to men 15..24 years old 11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector 12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY TARGET 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	13. Under-five mortality rate 14. Infant mortality rate 15. Proportion of 1 year-old children immunised against measles
GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH TARGET 6: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	16. Maternal mortality ratio 17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES TARGET 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	18. HIV prevalence among 15..24 year old pregnant women 19. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate ^b 19a. Condom use at last high-risk sex 19b. Percentage of population aged 15-24 with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS ^c 19c. Contraceptive prevalence rate 20. Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10..14
TARGET 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TARGET 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria 22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures ^d 23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis 24. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS) 25. Proportion of land area covered by forest 26. Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area 27. Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP) 28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons) 29. Proportion of population using solid fuels
TARGET 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	30. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural 31. Proportion of urban and rural population with access to improved sanitation
TARGET 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	32. Proportion of households with access to secure tenure

GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

TARGET 12: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction ..both nationally and internationally

TARGET 13: Address the special needs of the least developed countries

Includes: tariff and quota free access for least developed countries exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction

TARGET 14: Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)

TARGET 15: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

TARGET 16: In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

TARGET 17: In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries

TARGET 18: In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

Some of the indicators listed below are monitored separately for the least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked countries and small island developing States.

Official development assistance

33. Net ODA, total and to LDCs, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income
34. Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)
35. Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied
36. ODA received in landlocked countries as proportion of their GNIs
37. ODA received in small island developing States as proportion of their GNIs

Market access

38. Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and LDCs, admitted free of duties
39. Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries
40. Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as percentage of their GDP
41. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity

Debt sustainability

42. Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)
43. Debt relief committed under HIPC initiative, US\$
44. Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services

45. Unemployment rate of 15-24 year-olds, each sex and total^e

46. Proportion of population with access to affordable, essential drugs on a sustainable basis

47. Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population
- 48a. Personal computers in use per 100 population and Internet users per 100 population
- 48b. Internet users per 100 population

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS and targets come from the Millennium Declaration signed by 189 countries, including 147 Heads of State, in September 2000 (www.un.org/documents/ga/res/55/a55r002.pdf - A/RES/55/2). The goals and targets are inter-related and should be seen as a whole. They represent a partnership between the developed countries and the developing countries determined, as the Declaration states, to create an environment ..at the national and global levels alike ..which is conducive to development and the elimination of poverty.

a For monitoring country poverty trends, indicators based on national poverty lines should be used, where available.

b Amongst contraceptive methods, only condoms are effective in preventing HIV transmission. The contraceptive prevalence rate is also useful in tracking progress in other health, gender and poverty goals. Because the condom use rate is only measured amongst women in union, it is supplemented by an indicator on condom use in high-risk situations (indicator 19a) and an indicator on HIV/AIDS knowledge (indicator 19b).

c This indicator is defined as the percentage of population aged 15-24 who correctly identify the two major ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV (using condoms and limiting sex to one faithful, uninfected partner), who reject the two most common local misconceptions about HIV transmission, and who know that a healthy-looking person can transmit HIV. However, since there are currently not a sufficient number of surveys to be able to calculate the indicator as defined above,

UNICEF, in collaboration with UNAIDS and WHO, produced two proxy indicators that represent two components of the actual indicator. They are the following: a) Percentage of women and men 15-24 who know that a person can protect herself from HIV infection by consistent use of condom. b) Percentage of women and men 15-24 who know a healthy-looking person can transmit HIV. Data for this year's report are only available on women.

d Prevention to be measured by the percentage of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets; treatment to be measured by percentage of children under 5 who are appropriately treated.

e An improved measure of the target is under development by ILO for future years.

2004 INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIANS' CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Strasbourg, France ♦ 18-19 October 2004

"We Parliamentarians pledge, as public advocates, legislators and policy makers, to carry out these actions and to systematically and actively monitor the progress we make in doing so. We further pledge to report regularly on this progress through parliamentary groups and to meet again in two years to assess the results we have made, both individually and collectively." **2002 Ottawa Statement of Commitment**

♦ CONFERENCE OUTLINE

I. JUSTIFICATION

At the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, the international community agreed to allocate an annual sum of \$17 billion by 2000 and \$18.5 billion by 2005 for population and reproductive health programmes in developing countries. Two thirds of the target would come from developing countries themselves and the remaining one third would come from external donor funding.

While developing countries as a whole have mobilized most of their two thirds share, the poorest countries continue to depend entirely on external assistance; they will not be able to meet the needs of their populations unless donors increase their support. On the other hand, the current donor support, about \$3 billion a year, is only half of the agreed requirement for this year. In the face of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and with an unprecedented number of adolescents entering into reproductive age, there is a growing need for a reliable and sufficient supply of reproductive health commodities and services, thus pushing up the resource needs even further.

Another important challenge for advancing the ICPD agenda is the creation and nurturing of an enabling environment in the domestic context, which can be realized through making positive changes in the national laws and policies on population and development. Significant progress has been made in this area in the past decade. For example, 96% of the 151 countries that responded to UNFPA's global survey in 2003 reported action to integrate population concerns into development policies and strategies.

Yet population growth in developing countries is still contributing, along with high resource consumption by affluent populations, to increasing stress on the global environment. In addition, more than 350 million couples still lack access to a full range of family planning services. It is obvious that much

more needs to be done in the next ten years in order to meet all of the ICPD goals.

Whether or not we can fill the gaps in laws, policies and funding, and whether or not we can achieve the ICPD and the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, depends on the political will of governments in both developed and developing countries. Strong support of parliamentarians is critical to build this political will.

II. 2002 Ottawa Conference

It is against this background that the first International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPCI/ICPD) was held in Ottawa, Canada, from 21 to 22 November 2002. The conference, held at the Canadian Parliament, brought together 103 elected representatives from 72 countries and territories, including ministers, along with secretariats of national, regional and global parliamentary groups, panelists and resource persons, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

The conference generated tremendous results, with parliamentarians around the world making the Ottawa Commitment a point of reference for their work in supporting the ICPD Programme of Action. Numerous parliamentary declarations and reports have been adopted at the national, regional and global levels in the past two years, which refer to or build on the Ottawa Commitment and its plan of action.

The Ottawa conference also established, for the first time, a global system of regular monitoring and follow-up for parliamentarians. The conference was crafted to be the first in a series of conferences to be held every two years around the same themes, i.e. resource mobilization and creation of an enabling environment for population and development. The location of the conference would rotate between the Asia and the Pacific, the African, the Arab, the Inter-European and the Inter-American regions.

Since the Ottawa conference, UNFPA has served as the IPCI/ICPD secretariat responsible for monitoring

progress and disseminating information to parliamentarians on a regular basis. It has set up and is running an email newsletter entitled Global Population Policy Update, which regularly reports on the progress made by parliamentarians and governments in fulfilling their commitments. The newsletter has served as a constant reminder that parliamentarians, governments and the civil society are all working towards the common goal of realizing the ICPD agenda.

III. 2004 Strasbourg Conference

Recognizing that Europe is playing a key role in advancing the ICPD agenda, particularly in mobilizing the necessary resources, the global and regional parliamentary groups that hosted the Ottawa Conference decided to convene the second IPCI/ICPD in the Inter-European region, under the auspices of the Council of Europe. With 45 member states, the Council of Europe is the region's oldest and most representative political institution.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the ICPD. While many national and regional events are taking place to commemorate the 10th anniversary, the second IPCI/ICPD in Strasbourg, France, will be one of the few events to take place at the global level. It will certainly be the only global event in which policy makers from around the world will gather together to review the progress made in the past ten years in implementing the ICPD and to discuss what actions are necessary in the remaining ten years of the 20-year plan.

The conference is expected to produce a forward-looking declaration that would build on the Ottawa Commitment and provide a clear sense of direction for the ten years to come.

PURPOSE

To promote dialogue among parliamentarians from all regions of the world on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, with a view to achieving further commitment to collective action in the areas of resource mobilization and creation of an enabling policy environment for population and development.

Hosts

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in collaboration with the following parliamentary groups:

- ❖ Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (IEPPFD)
- ❖ Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)
- ❖ 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)

ORGANIZERS

IEPPFD, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and UNFPA, with the support of the City of Strasbourg.

SPONSORS

UNFPA, the European Commission and the Governments of The Netherlands and Switzerland. In-kind support from the Government of France, the Council of Europe, the City of Strasbourg and the French National Assembly Delegation on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities between Men and Women.

Date and Venue

18-19 October 2004 in Strasbourg, France at the *Palais de l'Europe*, the Council of Europe.

AGENDA

Attached. Official interpretation in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic will be offered.

PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 250 participants are expected to attend the conference, including:

- ❖ Over 130 parliamentarians from all regions of the world
- ❖ Representatives from the national, regional and global parliamentary groups
- ❖ Panelists and resource persons (including ministers from donor and developing countries)
- ❖ UNFPA and IPPF
- ❖ Representatives of the Council of Europe

COST OF PARTICIPATION

For parliamentarians and other invited guests, the cost of travel and other necessary expenses will be covered from the conference budget. Observers are asked to pay for their own travel costs.

STEERING COMMITTEE

A steering committee consisting of two parliamentarians each from IEPPFD, AFPPD, FAAPPD, IAPG and PGA has been established to prepare for the conference. It held its first meeting on 17 October 2003 in Brussels.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

- ❖ A Statement of Commitment that will spell out concrete actions to be taken by parliamentarians to further mobilize resources and create an enabling environment for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.
- ❖ Expansion the IPCI/ICPD network of parliamentarians and cultivation of champion parliamentarians in every participating country and region for advancing the ICPD agenda.

