

Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development Toward the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit (GCPPD2023)



GCPPD 2023

Global Conference of Parliamentarians
on Population and Development

Day 1 // April 25, 2023

Opening Session

Hon. Prof. Takemi Keizo and MP Japan, Chair of AFPPD, opened the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (GCPPD2023) towards the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit and welcomed all participants. He recalled that seven years ago, just before the G7 Summit, Japan hosted a similar global conference of parliamentarians and adopted a parliamentary declaration. It was submitted to the Japanese Prime Minister and reflected in the Summit Leaders' Declaration. That was a concrete contribution of parliamentarians in the decision-making. This time, he hopes for everyone's positive contribution to the discussion and start forging partnership amongst different states.



Address by the Organizer

H.E. Fukuda Yasuo, Former Prime Minister of Japan, Chair of APDA and Honorary Chair of JPFP, welcomed the participants who were attending GCPPD2023. He mentioned that APDA, the organizer of the conference, is a unique organization that organizes a network of parliamentarians from around the world together with AFPPD. APDA is focused on peace, security, and human rights issues to create a peaceful and safe society toward improving people's lives. Every year, APDA has been holding conferences for legislators in different regions to exchange knowledge and experience to aid in developing laws, policies, budgets, and other concrete measures that would address development issues. In 2008, prior to the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, parliamentarians came to deliver a strong message that reproductive health is particularly important for improving maternal and child health in developing countries. Prior to the succeeding 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit, parliamentarians made pioneering recommendations including those on infectious disease control to then Prime Minister. This year's conference aims to consider the future of the planet, the 8-billion people living in it, and the new vision for society towards achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs).



H.E. Fukuda made two points as recommendations to the G7 Summit. First is on the international community's behavior that is becoming increasingly confrontational and divided. There is also the emergence of national leader who is threatening the use of nuclear weapons. He urged parliamentarians to work together to prevent the use of nuclear weapons, search for path towards appeasement, and keep all channels of dialogue open. Second, he requested the body to discuss development mechanisms going forward. COVID-19's effect to socially and economically vulnerable people and the existing inequalities further widened. Unless the current system is changed, development will only lead to the concentration of wealth in the hands of the rich, thereby widening inequality and further exacerbating the ill effects of climate change. Parliamentarians must not turn a blind eye to the risks such situation poses to future

generations. Innovation and the creation of new values are indispensable. APDA has been a vital resource for parliamentarians who share the same concern not only for their own countries, but for the entire planet. He implored the future generations to act together to address various development challenges.

Addresses

Hon. Abdelhady El-Kasbey, MP Egypt, thanked the Japanese government for its support for the GCPPD2023, especially considering various challenges. He highlighted the parliamentarians' very important role in addressing said challenges, and expressed appreciation for the Japanese government, JPFP, APDA and AFPPD for facilitating the active involvement of parliamentarians.

H.E. Hayashi Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, expressed that population is a common challenge for all countries around the world in the Anthropocene era when human activities have come to have a major impact on the global environment. Global issues that transcend national borders, such as climate change and the spread of infectious diseases including COVID-19, are becoming more and more prevalent. As UNDP emphasized in its report released last year, it is essential for all countries to cooperate in a spirit of solidarity based on the principle of human security in order to resolve global issues. After World War II, Japan achieved economic growth while overcoming the population growth and poverty mainly through health promotion and employment policies. The challenges of population growth were resolved by improving individual's quality of life. Specifically, these policies include the promotion of family planning by public health nurses, the creation of a healthy labor force through community health promotion activities, and measures against unemployment, amongst others. These policies form the foundation of Japan's socioeconomic growth and population transformation. In recent years Japan is experiencing rapid ageing and decline in fertility. It is working to extend healthy longevity to address ageing and extending support for marriage, pregnancy, childbirth, and child-rearing to address low fertility.



Japan will cooperate and continue to actively share its experiences and lessons learned with other countries and contribute to solving population and development related issues. In 1982, AFPPD was established to promote cooperation between Asian executive and legislative branches on population and development and to push for legislation and budgetary measures in each country. In 2003, Japan established the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) within the UNFPA in hopes of encouraging discussions amongst parliamentarian groups on population and development around the world. In Asia, working on the issues of ageing and fertility transformation is essential for maintaining a healthy society. In the African region, the focus is on achieving transparency, accountability, and good governance for the public. In the Arab region, empowering youth population and ensuring quality education and employment is the focus areas. APDA with support of JTF is tailoring its activities to the situation of different countries and regions and has seen passage of laws, such as tax reform in Kazakhstan, water resources legislation in Kyrgyzstan, constitutional reform in Kenya, and legislation on ODA reporting to the legislature in Uganda and Zambia. To achieve the sustainable development goals, it is therefore important that parliamentarians who represent the people of each country gather and engage in active discussions and build a global cooperation architecture.

Hon. Fredrick Outa, Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs of Kenya, Vice President of FPA, highlighted that the GCPPD2023 comes at a critical time for parliamentarians to discuss political actions and advocate for implementation of policies on population and development. The COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected many aspects of different societies which pushed countries to critically examine their health care systems and integrate the progress made towards achieving the SDGs. Countries faced major challenges, such as gender and sexual-based violence during the pandemic when most of the population were forced in restricted spaces during lockdowns. The impact on the youth and persons with disabilities was also greatly felt. During the GCPPD2023, parliamentarians shall discuss measures that member states undertook in responding to crises and decisions made in accelerating the efforts to achieve sustainable development in the post-COVID era.

Africa as a continent has had many challenges that directly affect the populations and hinder development. FPA has had several meetings to move the African agenda forward. He expressed appreciation on the assistance they received from the Japanese government through JTF. The collaboration between the Asian and African continent through parliamentarians' fora will benefit populations of the continents, especially in the implementation of the SDGs and ICPD25 commitments. The role of parliamentarians continues to be critical in the advancements of the rights of the populations that they represent and their advocacy with the executive. Parliamentarians are also key in the development of policies that promote equality for their populations. He closed his message by stating that he looked forward to vibrant discussions, sharing of experiences, best practices, challenges, and the way forward to promote development and sustainability.

Mr. Ian McFarlane, Director of Division for Communications and Strategic Partnerships of UNFPA, began his message by saying that the meeting was convened at a historic moment. The world reached 8 billion people and UNFPA launched its State of the World's Population (SWoP), "8 billion lives infinite possibilities: the case for rights and choices" UNFPA is calling for the world to celebrate human progress upon reaching the 8 billion people milestone. The planet is one where more people are living longer while acknowledging that there are anxieties and questions around what population number means. The SWoP report suggests that there is a need to radically rethink the discussions about population change and reiterate the central message from Cairo in 1994, that it is not about the numbers of people, but the rights of the people, that matter. In the report, nearly half of women cannot exercise their rights and choices and bodily autonomy. Parliamentarians' leadership and experience on this topic of demographic changes are vital in crafting meaningful ways forward.

In Japanese, the word "*ibasho*" means a sense of place, not only physical but also emotional for everyone. It is an equivalent of working together to create sense of belonging where rights and choices can be ensured. Thinking of achieving the SDGs and adapting effectively to population change, the key to success will be through gender equality. On current trends, it is going to take another 130 years to reach gender equality. But there have been many examples of successful policies and approaches focusing on rights and partnerships, including the very vital role that parliamentarians around the world play, that give ideas on achieving the vision of the SDGs. Parliamentarians' involvement in legislation includes eliminating child marriages, promoting gender equality and UHC, harnessing the potential of our largest youth generation, and managing the aging societies. It is his hope that parliamentarians will be able to come to a resolution, find ways forward, and use their influence on the G7 summit next month, and for their own national discussion. UNFPA stands ready to join at the forum to participate, to convene, to see that the vision for the International Conference on Population and Development from 1994.

Opening statement

H.E. Hosoda Hiroyuki, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan, delivered the opening statement for the GCPPD. He said that globally, more and more people have been able to live healthy and prosperous lives. However, issues such as rising geopolitical tensions, including the Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and the spread of infectious diseases, food and energy security, and natural disasters due to climate change continue to challenge the world. The SDGs adopted at UN summit in 2015 have a 2030 deadline. In addition to resolving issues such as poverty, hunger, and sanitation, it is necessary to promote initiatives for gender equality and education for young people. Furthermore, the ageing population has been recognized as an issue in developed countries. In this context, it is vital for parliamentarians to present a new framework and to take actions. He noted that recommendations for the G7 Hiroshima Summit will be compiled and submitted to Prime Minister Kishida at the end of the conference. Hence, it is his hope that meaningful discussions and commitments for contributions to solving global issues will ensue.



Keynote Speech

H.E. Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, extended a warm welcome to all the parliamentarians working on population and development issues. The global community is facing complex global issues such as climate change, global health, including infectious diseases, food insecurity, energy, amongst others, and the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 is in jeopardy. Now is the time to accelerate efforts to realize social transformation. Population challenges affect all aspects of human, social, and economic development. However, population issues are widely varying. In sub-Saharan Africa, fertility rates remain high, while Asia and Latin America are facing the challenge of how to take advantage of the demographic dividend. In addressing these population challenges in a multifaceted way, the basic perspective is human security which Japan has positioned as a guiding principle for development



cooperation. It is important to focus on each person especially the most vulnerable people. It is necessary to focus on the quality of life of everyone, not just the increase or decrease in population. From this perspective, one of the most important approaches to various population issues is the global health initiative to achieve UHC. In the past, Japan led health-related discussions in summits it hosted, including the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit in 2008 where Prime Minister Fukuda took the initiative to develop the Toyako Framework for Action on Global Health. At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, leaders committed to the G7 Ise-Shima's vision for global health to strengthen global health architecture and achieve UHC.

The central vision of this year's G7 Hiroshima Summit will be to emphasize the importance of addressing human security and the following three areas. First, building and strengthening the global health

architecture including the governance for prevention, preparedness, and response to public health crises including finance. Second, it is important to contribute to achieving more resilient, equitable, and sustainable UHC. Third, promotion of health innovation to address various health challenges. Addressing these issues is also important from the perspective of strengthening relations with a wide range of partners in the international community, including developed, emerging, and developing countries. It is also essential that parliamentarians work together with all stakeholders, not just governments but also civil society, to achieve these goals. The parliamentarians assembled here are of great importance in this regard. He ended by persuading parliamentarians to seize this opportunity to promote networking and to work together to address demographic and post COVID-19 challenges.

Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, MP Japan and Chair of JPFP, introduced JPFP's focus on addressing population and sustainable development issues. JPFP is a supra-party federation of parliamentarians with long history and tradition. In 2024, it will celebrate its 50th anniversary, a very significant milestone. The principles and achievement of activities and the partnerships that JPFP has built with parliamentarians from around the world are valuable assets for Japan. The world population has reached 8 billion and various



global issues are imminent. There is an impetus to realize a society where no one is left behind. It is essential to incorporate a population perspective in parliamentarians' work. As the Prime Minister Kishida mentioned, the focus of Japan's diplomacy is human security. As such, UHC is important as well as the contribution to global health. JPFP would like to demonstrate solidarity with all parliamentarians to create a better world. Japan will try to share its experience and lessons learned through diplomacy, and deepen discussions and exchanges to seek for better solutions.

Session 1

World Population hits 8 billion: What's next?

On November 15, 2022, the global population exceeded 8 billion people, marking a new milestone for humanity. Despite such growth, the world faces disparities in population growth. Why is population growth a major challenge for societies and especially for least developed countries? What are the implications for global health, sustainable UHC, and human development?

Session Chair: Hon. Aisawa Ichiro, MP Japan and Senior Vice Chair of JPFP, opened the first session. In near the future, the world population would reach 10 billion. The growth will come mostly from the African continent. In the Africa, the total population right now is 1.4 billion and the United Nations estimates that by 2050 it will become 2.5 billion. If that continues, the population in the African continent will reach 4 billion. In terms of young labor, the sub-Saharan Africa and Asia region will contribute to the world economy. Not only for the developed countries but also for the developing countries, the decline in population as well as ageing is going to be a rapidly evolving process. How to response to issues such as healthcare and after-retirement lifestyles



to secure human security for all is going to be very important. To achieve the SDGs, it is essential to accurately forecast the population trends for countries to provide adequate policies.

Facilitator: Mr. Pedro Conceição, Director of the Human Development Report Office, UNDP, shared his initial reflections from the perspective of the implications for human development. Human development is an idea that what matters in assessing progress and evaluating policies is the extent to which people can live lives to their full potential. This implies that there should be focus on aspects of well-being that go beyond income, to include achievements in health and education, and human agency, i.e., for people to feel in control of their lives.

He shared three reflections. First is that a planet with 8 billion people makes it even more salient that the planet is changing in unprecedented ways. Anthropocene is a word that is being proposed by scientists to reflect an unprecedented time in the history of the planet in which human action is changing it in fundamental ways. The 8 billion people are changing the planet in very fundamental ways and its results are felt in climate change and in such a way that biological evolution is shaped with implications over millions of years going forward. Second, it is not so much about numbers, but it is about people. People are not only using resources but are also able to innovate. They are also able to exercise their creativity to organize societies in ways that improve standards of living. Despite growing inequalities, it is undeniable that as population increased over the last few decades, the standards of living on average have also increased for the better. This is a result of this ability of the people to actually be creative. With more people in the world, there would be more potentials to harness such creativity, and this allows the possibility of more humans sharing the planet. Third, as people confront global issues, it is important to recognize that the present is a critical moment in time where for the first time ever the human development index has declined for two years in a row. This has motivated a special report on human security in which it was argued that to confront the challenges of the Anthropocene, it is critical to have human security at the forefront and as a guiding frame for actions. The fundamental premise of human security is that it is important for people to be able to live with freedom from fear and of live in dignity. To end, he underscored the need to reaffirm the importance of empowering and protecting people at the core of the actions that need to be taken to enhance people's human security, and the importance of solidarity as a recognition of increasing interdependence between nations and people.

Presentations

Hon. Deepender Hooda, MP India and Vice Chair of AFPPD, shared some thoughts, challenges, success stories relating to global issues. He began with acknowledging that population in India is both a challenge and an opportunity. Along with the news that India has become the world's largest population there also came good news that India's replacement ratio has now stabilized to 2.0. While that would mean that their population will keep increasing, it is the trajectory that the Indian government wants. Another opportunity and a big challenge are the huge population between the age group of 15 and 64 which stands at 68% (the working age). It represents both an opportunity and a challenge on training human resources. There are also challenges related to inequality of opportunity, food security, and malnutrition. While India holds great promise for itself and for the 21st century in the world, there are a lot of measures on which India need to catch up. The gross national income is also little lower than the global average. Stabilizing the population is therefore a key priority. Most of the Indian states have achieved the total fertility rate of less than two. There are many things done to achieve this TFR of 2.0, but he specifically mentioned the home delivery of contraceptives of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA). There are 1,000,000 ASHA workers in India and each village has one. ASHA workers are all

women, either married or widows, whose role is to provide reproductive health support. These health activists are concerned with women on birth preparedness and reproductive and child health. While some political parties wanted a one child policy, it is the women's empowerment, education, and ASHA workers that have gradually enabled India to achieve the national target. Globally, the challenges that nations all face such as resource scarcity, climate change, social disparity, economic stress, and increasing demands and debt need collective thinking. India's challenges include increased demand for food grain and sustainable urban planning. Apart from the government programs, women's education, women's empowerment, and the rate of urbanization have acted as great agents of change which had help in bringing down the fertility rates at a much sharper pace.

In conclusion, how can parliamentary help? First is awareness. Parliamentarians can hold the government accountable by asking questions on these very important topics. Taking important feedback from this conference, parliamentarians can take it back to their own country, and prepare questions that can be posed to the government. Parliamentarians can help in becoming agents of accessibility of various methods and means to achieve the goals. Finally, parliamentarians can help in appraisal of the government's initiatives and appreciation of all the community efforts.

Mr. Klaus Beck, Deputy Regional Director a.i., UNFPA APRO, gave a presentation on what might come next with the 8 billion population. In a way, 8 billion is really a success story instead of a doomsday scenario. It is a sign that humanity has made great progress on several fronts in terms of education and health. The world population now stands at 8 billion but the world population growth is slowing down because about a decade has been added to the average life expectancy. It means that people live 10 years longer.



Fertility rate has dropped quite significantly to about 2.3 for women today. The question that is asked is, "Are we too many still?" It is 2/3 of the 8 billion who live in countries with below replacement fertility. Also, worth-mentioning is that over the next 25 years, 2/3 of the population growth will be driven by the past population dynamics. It might also be, "Are we going to be too few?" Many countries have had below replacement fertility rates including Japan and many other countries. But some of them still had population growth because of population movements, migration, and dynamic economies. It is also a sign that the increasing control that individuals especially women have

had to exercise over their lives is also credited in this regard. In UNFPA's report, "8 billion Lives, Infinite Possibilities," one key point is people cannot have too many or too few children, except by their own definition. Unrealized fertility goals are also quite strongly related to economic and gender barriers being facing by some countries. That there is no perfect population size is another critical part. There is no reliable way to know how to achieve a certain population size. What needs to be understood is that tools and public support and political will need to be mobilized to address demographic changes.

Mr. Beck referenced Prime Minister Kishida's words that "it's not really about the number, it's about the quality of life". UNFPA's Executive Director says that "Women's bodies should not be held captive to population targets" and this is a critical point that UNFPA is highlighting in its report. There is still a need to focus on SRHR. There should be no "too few" or "too many" population discussion. The population anxiety that could end up with women's bodies being the battleground going forward in terms of having more or fewer children must not be entertained. It is the basic right by the ICPD

Programme of Action for everyone to decide freely the number, spacing, and the timing of their children. They must be empowered so they can achieve their own choices, ideas, and aspirations.

In the report, there is a tool for governments and policymakers for how to address demographic change based on evidence. Use population data to plan. Understand the ways that demographic change will impact the economy and there will be a stronger need for social policies. Make sure that changes in policies are examined carefully from a human rights perspective; that there will be no violation of human rights. Enable young people to build the future in the place of their own. Make sure that there are more inclusive societies where everyone is involved and engaged regardless of their gender, status, and their abilities. These are some of the key ideas in the report.

Dr. Koike Toshio, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo, Executive Director of International Center for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), Public Works Research Institute (PWRI), began his presentation by making the case for sustainability and disaster at the global scale. He emphasized early on that the 2030 agenda focuses on sustainable and resilient path toward leaving no one behind. But transformative steps need to be taken such as science and technology. Among the 17 SDGs, Goals 1 (no poverty), 3 (good health and well-being), 4 (quality education) and 8 (decent work and economic growth) are the most relevant to ensuring the quality of life, while Goals 2 (zero hunger), 6 (clean water and sanitation), and 7 (affordable and clean energy) relates to the water-food-energy nexus. Artificial and natural environmental concerns are connected to this quality of life and water-food-energy. Further, Goals that relate to natural and artificial environment are 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 13 (climate action), 14 (life below water), and 15 (life on land) respectively. Finally, Goals 5 (gender equality), 10 (reduced inequalities), 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) and 17 (partnership for the goals) pertain to the social system.

Climate change intensifies water-related disaster and the impact propagates to the water-food-energy nexus and the quality of life. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the world has learned complicated and systemic risks which are usually implicit in social, economic, and environmental systems, but they can suddenly emerge and threaten humanity beyond boundaries. How should humanity survive such risks and live with them in a sustainable way? That is the fundamental question. Dr. Koike underscored the need to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation. It is important to strengthen disaster resilience and develop some water-food-energy nexus. Moreover, there is a need to improve the quality of life and build a society toward enhancing human security and realizing quality-oriented society. Thus, there is an impetus to take interlinked, concerted, and coordinated action. The cross-sectional decision making of leaders is essential. During the Fourth Asia-Pacific Water Summit in 2022, three key outcome documents were achieved. In the Kumamoto Declaration, heads of state and the governments require what role science and technology should play in the cross-sectional decision making of leaders. Dr. Koike introduced two examples focusing on the climate change adaptation and mitigation and the water-food-energy nexus. First, by integrating various data and hydrological meteorological models, the inflow prediction into dams in real time can be done. By inputting dam information, the system can optimize dam operation to reduce flood risk in downstream and increase water use efficiency simultaneously. This system is applied in Japan in cooperation with electrical companies. Second, based on this system, it can foster facilitator to improve the quality of life. In Water Disaster Platform to Enhance Climate resilience in Africa (WaDiRe-Africa), a UNESCO project funded by the Government of Japan developed the flood early warning system at the elevation scale of the Volta River Basin. The user can also develop the flood hazard map and contingency plan for emergency response by themselves. Two e-Learning

training courses and training of experts, and another for fostering of facilitators were offered. Facilitators are expected to play a leading role in community-based action based on this system. *Hon. Nakayama George, Chair of Committee on Responsible Business Conduct & SDGs Promotion, Keidanren-Japan Business Federation, and Senior Advisor and Former President and CEO of Daiichi Sankyo Co., Ltd.*, talked about the effects of the Japanese industry from the standpoint of Daiichi Sankyo Co., Ltd., a Japanese pharmaceutical company. KEIDANREN (or Japanese business federation) which is a comprehensive economic organization consisting of representative companies. Its mission is to contribute to the sustainable development of the Japanese economy and improvement of the quality of life for the Japanese people. KEIDANREN is taking the approach of Society 5.0 for the SDGs. Society 5.0, which was first propounded in the government's science and technology basic plan in 2016, aims to create a future society through innovation. That future society is one where digital transformation and imagination and creativity of diverse people combine to solve social issues and create value. It takes the same approach as the United Nations SDGs. In order to realize a society where everyone can live with peace of mind and dignity, there is a need to further update and promote new forms of corporate behavior based on the growing importance of the SDGs and human security. KEIDANREN asked member companies to practice corporate behavior from the social point of view towards the establishment of sustainable capitalism. Specifically, this includes respecting human rights, solving social problems through digital transformation, contributing to the well-being of society and individuals, and achieving sustainable growth through creation of new values with diverse stakeholders.



Mr. Nakayama specifically focused on the issue of antimicrobial resistance or AMR, where antimicrobial drugs lose their efficacy. Anti-micro biotic are effective against bacterial infections but not against viral infections, such as common cold. Inappropriate use of antimicrobials against viral infections such as the common cold can result to mutation and emergence of drug resistant bacteria or AMR. One of the six initiatives proposed by the Japanese government in its national action plan on antimicrobial resistance is the concept of One Health, which seeks to protect the health of humans, animals, and ecosystems as a whole. This requires the efforts of many stakeholders not only the pharmaceutical industry. The Pharmaceutical industry is working on public awareness and education for appropriate use of any antimicrobials as well as research and development and drug discovery. The first is promoting appropriate use of antimicrobials. Physicians and pharmacists need to engage in appropriate prescribing and instruct patients not to stop taking medication. Patients also need to understand that antimicrobials are not effective against the common cold and not ask for unnecessary prescription of antimicrobials. Second is on research and development of new antimicrobials. Development of antimicrobials takes about a decade and a large investment of tens of billions of dollars. Even if an effective antimicrobial is developed, pharmaceutical companies will (unless it is truly needed) recommend limited usage to inhibit emergence of resistance bacteria. This leads to reducing sales and substantially lowering business profitability and predictability. As a new initiative to create new antimicrobials, the pharmaceutical industry established the AMR action funds in 2020 through global collaboration with leading pharmaceutical companies. The funds not only invest in startups with promising candidate drugs, but also provide development and commercialization know how aiming at commercializing two to four new antimicrobials in the next decade. To sustain the R&D, it is essential that the government introduce incentives and guarantee a certain level of sales after the launch in the

market. In other words, the government needs to have an employment policy for improving the market environments for companies to develop new antimicrobials.

In terms of approach to human security, the important strategic keywords are empowerment, protection, and solidarity. In the example of addressing the threat of AMR through the implementation of the AMR action plan, solidarity will be particularly important among stakeholders including citizens and patients, governments, academia and companies.

Open discussion

Hon. Angela Warren-Clark, MP New Zealand, asked Hon. Deepender Hooda with regard to the ASHA workers. What resources and support does India offer to those workers to enable them to do their important work in their communities? Is that a paid position that these women do? How are they trained and what supports are provided to them?

Hon. Risa Hontiveros, MP Philippines, shared four comments. First, Mr. Director McFarlane's statement that it is going to take another 130 years to reach gender equality is simply not acceptable and a call to action to reach gender equality sooner is necessary. Second, Mr. Conceição noted that for the first time in history the human development index has declined for two years in a row. It is an alarming call to action that parliamentarians will be inspired to take more urgent steps to reverse this rollback of various historic advances in terms of human development. Third, to Hon. Hooda, the increase in capital food grain availability is inspiring and probably related to Dr. Koike's water-food-energy nexus. She said she is looking forward to learning more how India had done this. Lastly is Hon. Hooda mentioned that India did not rely on giant policies, but on women empowerment. As India has become the world population leader, it is important to answer the question "what's next as the world population has hit 8 billion" to look at important factors, not just population size nor form of government, but women empowerment is critical in answering this question.

Hon. Aroma Dutta, MP Bangladesh, had two comments for Hon. Hooda and Mr. Nakayama George. First to Mr. Nakayama, whether he is saying something about biological warfare. The pharmaceutical industry is a huge industry which the government and the civil society do not control. When talking about universal healthcare, the main point of pharmaceutical industry does not seem to fit with that of universal healthcare. Second, since ASHA workers are women, she noted that it is not gender balanced because women are not decision makers. When women go to women, or even men, as long as there are no men volunteers to influence men, it will still be difficult because women are not the decision makers over their body in the context of Bangladesh. She noted that these are issues that need to be addressed carefully.

Responses

Hon. Deepender Hooda, MP India

All the 1,000,000 ASHA workers across India's cities and towns are women, which have helped the country in reaching its targets in terms of population stabilization. They are educated women and in every village the priority is given to them who are widows or married women with a certain level of education. The central government and a particular state that has ASHA workers' pay the salary. The minimum salaries are approximately ₹10,000 (about USD 100) per month minimum, but there are certain states where the salaries are higher. However, there are no retirement benefits. India's

experience with ASHA workers has been very successful even if there is no one man in the 1,000,000 army of the ASHA workers.

About the food grain, India was importing food grains in 1960s and 1970s. Beginning in 1980s, India's population increased three times but the food grain per capita availability has become much more. The key is water management, dams, and irrigation channels. That is one of the very important factors leading to the green revolution in India. The other factor is the production side with the help of science. Seeds give higher yield varieties, while on the demand side, the Government of India has made a very important intervention by providing a minimum support price, procuring the food grain, and then distributes it. It's called MSP (minimum support price) and PDS (public distribution system). The Government of India procures this food grains and then distributes it to the poorest of poor who get the food grains free of cost.

Mr. Klaus Beck reiterated the comments made about the importance of continuous focus on gender equality and women's empowerment. That is where some of the solution to the challenges of low fertility lies, hence the need to examine it very carefully. For instance, lack of women's care support at home is one of the reasons why women do not have as many children as they want.

Dr. Koike Toshio emphasized the importance of concerted and interlinked efforts beyond the sector. Coordinated action is very important and that solidarity is key.

Mr. Nakayama George reminded that AMR is a new kind of health threat. Innovation is needed to try to create the new medicine to kill this mutant. But in order to do that, a lot of money is needed because success is so low, e.g., only one good medicine out of 30,000 candidates. There should be a big asset to create and continue that research because no one knows a lot about the human being. Only 2% of DNA is known. Science needs to continue the trial and error in the creation of good medicine for people.

Session 2

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Promotion of SRHR and Prevention of GBV

Discourse and political commitments at the global and regional levels have paved the way for an unprecedented movement towards women's rights and gender equality over the past decades. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted social inequalities and exacerbated the gaps and challenges still facing women's rights and gender equality. Women have been disproportionately affected and disadvantaged by the pandemic. To realize women's rights for all, what can parliamentarians do to reduce gender gaps and advance gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as promote a healthy life and well-being for all women and girls?

Session Chair: Hon. Angela Warren-Clark, MP New Zealand and Co-Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

Facilitator: Dr. Roopa Dhatt, Executive Director of Women in Global Health, started her facilitation of the session with acknowledging that the world is now in the third year of the pandemic that has been rewriting women's rights. The pandemic has deepened existing inequalities between countries and continues to do so. More than 1/4 century after the landmark UN Conference in Beijing on women's rights, women still hold only 26% of parliamentary seats globally. In the health sector where women comprise 70% of the health workers, only 25% of senior leadership positions are held by women.

Women were marginalized in leadership before the pandemic but the pandemic exacerbated their marginalization. In the health sector, women lost ground in leadership during the pandemic in 2020. 86% of national COVID task forces have men as members, even though women are the ones largely delivering the health systems.

With COVID-19 as another emergency, women have been both raised as essential workers and treated as social shock absorbers. It is women in this pandemic who bore the increased burden of unpaid work as schools were closed and it is girls in the poorest families who were taken out of school and forced into early marriages when families needed one less mouth to feed. Estimates show that 11 million girls will not return to school due to the pandemic. The lost hopes and dreams of those girls can never be recovered. If women had an equal

same decision making during the pandemic, some of the mistakes would have been avoided. Governments would have anticipated that lockdowns would mean locking some women in with violent men. Taking measures to protect women and children, governments would have known that pregnancy and love do not stop in emergencies. In a WHO survey, 1 in every 3 countries reported disruptions to maternity services in the pandemic. Provision of safe maternity services, SRH services and rights are always essential and can never be treated as optional.



Presentations

Hon. Baroness Elizabeth Barker, MP the United Kingdom, recognized the privileged position that parliamentarians occupy by having a platform and job to make sure that no person on earth says that they do not know what gender equality and gender-based violence (GBV) are. Inequality and GBV exist not just in the middle of war zones, they exist in daily lives. It is the parliamentarians' job to use all the resources at their command and ensure that laws are in place. To do this, first, use not just statistics and evidence, but use images. There is not one person in the world who does not realize that child marriage is a crime when looking at the image. It can only be stopped by making sure that people all over the world see images like that and see the reality of what child marriage means.

Parliamentarians talk to many different people and it is their job to communicate. To win campaigns, start with evidence and science. She urged the parliamentarians to take the hearts and minds approach, use very evocative images to show the realities on the ground and have plenty of resources and information, particularly about financial information. Second is to make sure that international standards are met. One example is the Istanbul Convention on preventing violence against women. It is an international standard and is being monitored. The people who are currently committing atrocities in Ukraine need to know that one day they will have to answer for what they have done to the women of Ukraine. Third, no one can do it all; everybody needs to work with other people. There is a campaign originated by right-wing extremist Christians in the United States and has been picked up by other right wing extremist people across Europe. The aim of it is to get rid of human rights and to destroy the organizations working on human rights by choosing different battle grounds—abortion, and in Africa the LGBT rights. It is a conservative attack to get rid of the progress that has been made in the last 40

years including overturning the Roe versus Wade in the United States. They have thrown in so much money into Uganda in order to bring about hate bills against the LGBT community. As her final image, Hon. Baker shared that there is a school for husbands, particularly young men, who really did not know how to treat young women very well. This is the complete antithesis of stopping women to access abortion or having sexual relationship, education. She ended by giving a piece of advice on human rights, “say it, say it again, say it again”. Stand up for women's rights, as the rights to access safe abortion and access to education are human rights.

Hon. Hassan Omar, MP Djibouti, introduced his country, Djibouti, located in the Horn of Africa near Somalia and Ethiopia. It has been independent since 1977. The population is approximately 1,100,000 in 2021. Its GDP per capita is estimated at 3,150 USD in 2021. To overcome inequalities and disparities that were heavily on the status of women, the Republic of Djibouti has ratified all the international conventions protecting human rights and therefore the rights of women. It is in this sense that Djibouti has adopted a panoply of laws to protect the right of women. In the political sphere, women must occupy at least 25% of the position. The country recognizes the right to education of Djiboutian without distinction of age, sex, social, ethnic, or religious origin and guarantee education to children from 6 to 16 years old. There is also a decree concerning the office for the execution of women's literacy project, which was availed of by 3,485 women. About 66% of the women enrollees were illiterate but subsequently developed linguistic skills and were awarded certificates.

On health, a law provides for reproductive health and family planning, sexually transmitted disease screening, education campaign about female genital mutilation, and social protection of the mother. There are protective measures adapting about people living with HIV/AIDS, and other vulnerable groups, and establishing a universal health insurance system based on the principle of national solidarity. On economic and social aspects, there is a law that defines the national gender policy which is the reference framework for gender in Djibouti. This policy aims to eliminate the gap between the sexes at all level of the development process, but also to establish sustainable development through the eradication of gender inequalities. The most dynamic project is the decree to establish the Center for Social Action for empowerment of women in order to provide women and young girls with a space for training and professional integration. Another decree is on regulation of “Community Mutuals”, which guarantees access to maternal and reproductive health services and to family planning for women. There is also an organization that identifies and develops useful micro projects for the locality. It can support and finance income generation activities. Djibouti has a law to prevent violence against women, in particular female genital mutilation. There was a law enacted in 2020 which aims to fight against all forms of violence against women and children in Djibouti. It aims to put in place more similar measures to protect and support victims of GBV and prosecute the perpetrator of the violence.

Like most countries in the world, Djibouti strives to do everything possible for the well-being of its population in order to reduce existing inequalities. It is for this reason that in 2019, before the Nairobi Summit, the Djiboutian government, parliamentarians, civil society actors, the private sector, and the academics gather to make the ultimate commitment to promote respect and implement the Djibouti Declaration, which can be summarized as follows: reduce by half preventable maternal deaths by improving universal access to basic social services; end GBV including harmful practice including female genital mutilation; capture the demographic dividend for equal equitable investment in human capital. In addition, the parliamentary group for population and development of Djibouti organized various activities such as an interregional parliamentary conference on the follow up to ICPD25. Also, with the

support of APDA, the national committee has started working on the development of the bill on reproductive health and rights to promote maternal health.

Hon. Risa Hontiveros, MP Philippines, started by recognizing that COVID-19 remains an active and present threat, but perhaps not as terrifying or paralyzing as in the early years of the pandemic. Globally, the WHO estimates that over 6 million people have died since the outbreak of COVID-19. In the Philippines, over 60,000 Filipinos passed away due to the pandemic. The systemic failures of governments were laid bare, revealing the deep-seated gender inequalities that have not been meaningfully addressed. Women's issues were relegated to the sidelines as soon as lockdowns were imposed. Philippines was known to have the longest and strictest lockdown in the world as the previous administration employed a militaristic method instead of a health-centric approach to COVID-19 response. The consequences of this were felt by the most vulnerable populations, especially women and children. Circumstances were even more dire for the most disenfranchised women and girls, LGBT, the elderly, young mothers, solo mothers, indigenous women, and the unemployed, among many others. Alarming, there have been reports of women being coerced into exchanging sexual favors for food relief and other essential goods. These incidents were particularly seen in Southeast Asian communities reflecting the vastly unequal power relations between vulnerable communities.

According to UNFPA, there were an estimated 839,000 women in the Philippines who experienced GBV during the pandemic. GBV also extends even to digital spaces as the internet has become a breeding ground for predators and cyber criminals to prey on children, especially young women, and girls. The online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC) has become so prevalent in the Philippines that it was tagged as the global hotspot of OSAEC. Even as lockdowns have eased, this practice persists in some of the poorest regions in the Philippines. Aside from OSAEC, the economic hardship brought by the pandemic also leads families from some communities to force their daughters to marry into families that can help them financially. Child marriage was already rampant in communities in conflict zones as it was wrongly seen as a way out of poverty. Hon. Hontiveros authored laws such as the safe spaces act, the anti-online sexual abuse and exploitation of children law, and the prohibition of child marriage law to address these worrying issues that affect Filipino women and girls. All three laws have very clear provisions that provide for the punishment of perpetrators of abuse, harassment, and exploitation as well as provisions that mandate the state to offer holistic psychosocial support for victim survivors. While the cases of these gender-based violence are overt, there are also invisible ways that the pandemic has impacted women, such as the absence of ample support for the specific needs of women working in and outside the home. Women comprise most essential industries and on top of this, women perform a humongous amount of domestic labor in and outside of the home. The plight of Overseas Filipino Workers brought about by the pandemic is also needed to be put forward since most migrant workers are women. Considering all the layers of vulnerabilities of women, Hon. Hontiveros filed gender responsive and inclusive Emergency Management bill, which seeks to address the gender differentiated needs of women and girls as we are disproportionately affected in times of emergencies. To end her presentation, she underscored that it should be the parliamentarians' responsibility to ensure that more women are put in leadership positions. When there are different perspectives from different kinds of women in decision making spaces and in all levels of governance, true gender equality and empowerment for all will be realized.

Ms. Khadija Elham, former MP Afghanistan, shared about the situation of violence against women in Afghanistan. In 2021, the Taliban captured Afghanistan and all women and men in the country. In Afghanistan, GBV and other complex cultural practices is combined with poverty and lack of awareness

that make women subservient to men. Nearly 90% of women in Afghanistan have experienced at least one type of family violence (sexual violence and physical violence). With the Taliban presence in Afghanistan, violence against women has increased. The Taliban are well known at the national and international level for misogyny and violence against women. Women's concerns are more present and more pressing than ever before. Women must always wear burka in public because the Taliban said that a woman's face is a source of corruption for men. Women are not allowed to work and after 8-years old, they are not allowed to learn science and education. Women who want to learn science and education are forced to continue their studies in hidden places like a basement. If their education location is revealed, they will be tortured, imprisoned, and interrogated. Most of the Taliban's orders restrict women from work and education. Women do not have the right to go to the market, entertainment place, and support group and they cannot ride in taxi or public buses. During the last two months of this year, 260 people including 50 women were publicly whipped by the Taliban. Most of these whipping and other type of tortures, such as execution and amputation, are carried out in the sports stadium before hundreds of people. Punishment in public is a clear violation of human rights and these acts continue to increase day by day.

Under the previous Afghanistan governments, women held various positions in government offices. When the Taliban is present, all women are deprived of work. It has been more than 550 days since the closure of schools and university for girls. None of the human rights organizations have taken practical actions to open educational institutions and schools. These Taliban actions are not temporary and will continue. Ms. Elham underscored her message: why do governments expect medical and humane treatment from the Taliban whose nature and origin is to inflict violence, arrest, assassinate, and torture through school closures and hostile treatments to women and girls. She proposed three approaches. First, the non-recognition of the Taliban regime. The United Nations says it is a terrorist organization and perhaps the biggest violator of human rights on the planet. Second, a serious review by the United Nations Security Council agreeing on a practical roadmap for inter-Afghan negotiations, to pressure the Taliban to respect human rights and freedom of speech, especially the right to work and education for women. Third, the actual support of the United Nations and the international community to regard the right to work and education of Afghan women.

Ms. Nakayama Maho, Director of Peacebuilding Program, Sasakawa Peace Foundation(SPF), introduced Sasakawa Peace Foundation as a private foundation from Japan working in the field of international cooperation. Since 2010, it has been working in conflict areas in Asia, especially in Southern Thailand, and based on those experiences, SPF now has a new department focused particularly on peace building. SPF has a research project which started 2 years ago. Although it has been more than 20 years since the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 or the Women Peace and Security Agenda was adopted, together with 9 other resolutions, there has been so much evidence verifying the relationship between the participation of women and conflict resolution and between gender equality and outbreaks of violent conflict. There is also a concern over the growing cultural backlash against the agenda of gender equality, somehow related to the rise of authoritarianism. After conducting a survey with 13,500 men in East Asia, Europe, and U.S., the surprising result is that those who are contributing to the household work tend to have the discriminatory perspective over women at workplace. In terms of the realities in conflict or post-conflict context, how can SPF intervene? What kind of policy intervention is effective in terms of addressing resistance from the male on the ground? What are the factors constituting men's propensity to violence? The research question is "how is the state of gender equality interrelated or correlated with perceptions on their gender division of work or gender norms? How is the state of gender equality perceptions correlated with processes of peace building?"

Data was collected from 6000 men and women in three post-conflict contexts in Aceh, Ambon in Indonesia, and Mindanao in the Philippines. A questionnaire was designed comprising of the 70 questions looking at the gender gap in educational attainment, income, ownership involvement in community activities, decision making, division of household work within families, perceptions on gender division of work, violence, satisfactions on the state of peace building, and masculinities. Tentative findings show that, first, there is a correlation between men's level of violence against their spouses and level of their educational attainment. When educational attainment is higher, the level of violence is lower. This is also true for men's decreased level of violence against their partners and the positive masculinities. Positive masculinity means either of the eight aspects of being men, such as the being employed, being married, being a good father, being incapable of violence, being capable of protecting family, or being strong. Respondents were asked whether they feel that they were able to achieve these things. If answer is yes, the level of positive masculinity is measured. There is also a correlation between men's decreased level of violence and positive masculinities. As well as between men's experience of violence during conflict times and abuse of their partners. And, between their experience of violence during conflict times and deteriorated mental health state. There is positive effect of psychological assistance or trauma healing. These are tentative findings but the final paper will be launched at the in New York in WPS in October.

Hon. Abe Toshiko, MP Japan, expressed that she learned a lot about women's empowerment under the pandemic. There are a lot of outstanding issues and challenges which need to be addressed. The important thing is that women should be able to choose because having a choice is relevant to the human and women's rights. Among the developed countries, especially in Japan, there are issues of accelerating ageing and declining birth rate and this increases pressure on women, especially within the family. Among the G7 summit countries, Japan is the only country where same-sex marriage is not allowed. This means that women's options are becoming less and less and that they are under a lot of pressure. Women not having a choice could hinder the diversity, and that is not good because diversity makes a country resilient. Diversity is the key and both developing and developed countries need to be aware of that. In terms of gender gap, Japan ranks very low and it can learn good practices from other countries.

Open discussion and wrap-up

Dr. Roopa Dhat summarized the session with three main points. First, despite the progress in some countries there is a backlash globally against SRHR that particularly impacts the lives and well-being of women and adolescent girls. No country can go forward leaving half of its population behind. Women have the right to decide when and how they have children and how they will have them. From civil society, parliamentarians were applauded for being critical advocates for SRHR for the lives free from GBV that all women and girls deserve. Second, equal leadership for women in all fields is a game changer, particularly in the field of politics and health. There is a critical mass of women parliamentarians who change the political agenda and are likely to lead to greater priority given to the prevention of GBV and to SRHR. These targets must be used along with other measures to achieve gender parity in decision making to build a better world for women and girls. Third, after more than three years in the front lines of pandemic, women who are most health workers, essential workers and care workers are exhausted and burned out. At the start of the pandemic, women health workers were clustered into lower status and lower paid jobs and frequently subject to sexual harassment and violence at work. It calculated that over 6 million women work unpaid or grossly underpaid and health system roles. The poorest women in the world are the ones subsidizing health for everyone. The poorest women are the ones that provide unpaid labor which provides a very fragile foundation for health systems.

In addition, there are alarming reports from G7 countries of women health workers being burned out and leaving the profession. It is being called the great resignation of women health workers and it is likely to derive unmanaged migration from low to high income countries which will stand in the way of global health, such as UHC and achieving our goals in this conference. In a world with a global shortage of health workers, G7 countries are urged to take steps to keep women health workers in the profession. This must be the year that countries commit to SRHR, ending GBV, and adding a new social contract for all women in the health and care sector.

Hon. Angela Warren-Clark, chair of the session, closed Session 2. She specifically thanked Hon. Elham, former MP from Afghanistan, and expressed that the global community is in solidarity with them.

Session 3:

Investing in Youth: Demographic Dividend and Employment Opportunity

At a time when young people are already struggling with disproportionate levels of unemployment and under-employment, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these situations. Many young people have been kept out of school and have been disproportionately and in many ways affected by recent economic and social pressures. Addressing such challenges and the needs of young people requires comprehensive, youth-centered and multi-sectoral approaches. This session will discuss how we can achieve demographic dividends and promote youth participation as an engine of growth and sustainability. What approaches should States take to improve the lifestyle and employment opportunities of young people?

Session chair: Hon. Dilrabo Mansuri, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Tajikistan and Co-Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Investing in Youth

Presentations

Hon. Dr. Rida Shibli, MP Jordan, started by introducing Jordan as a small country of about 87,000 km^2 , in the middle of a region with the high political instability. From the east side is Iraq which has been over 35 years in political instability, in the north is Syria which has been all over 10 years in political instability, and in its west side is the West Bank and Israel where a conflict over 70 years still going on. Jordan is the second country in the world in terms of water scarcity, where the water per capita of the Jordanian person is 80 m^3 per year compared to world per capita of 600 m^3 per year. The country is facing the heat of the climate change and more desertification. Energy is a big issue in the country and 26% of the Jordanian budget goes to energy. The nexus for Jordan is energy-water-food security and environment, along with climate change. The expected population in Jordan is less than 7 million people, but because of the refugees who are coming to Jordan from Syria and other places in the region, it grew to almost 11 million in a few years, thereby affecting the country's development plan.

The country has one of the youngest populations in the world where 63 % is under the age of 30, 50.6% are males and 49.35% are females. Young people of



today are totally different; theirs is the generation of internet of things, big data robotics, etc. In 2040, Jordan is working to reap the demographic dividend, where people from 15 to 64 will be more than the people under 15 and more than 64 years old. His office conducted a study through the social media (i.e., Facebook and Twitter) to know what the young people say about their situation. Considering the Arab Spring started from Facebook, it is important to analyze SNS data. Through 1,600 retweets, 230 tweets, and 4,000 likes, 27% were females, 60% unknown, and 13% of them they were males. They were able to gather that a quarter (25.9%) of the sentiments were neutral, but 72.6% of them were negative. Some of the sentiments were positive, saying they are considering what the King is doing for their safety and the partnerships to create employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. The negative comments (72.6%) were about immigrants, such as refugees being dissatisfied with the refugees in Jordan have the rights to work like Jordanians. In the past, there were donors helping with the Jordanian government, but lately, there were not much support. In a survey of more job opportunities, young people are talking that there is a way for them to get some opportunities with jobs outside the country and some opportunities inside the country. The negative tweets are saying that there is a lot of focal points that need to be addressed: lack of health insurance, education infrastructure, unemployment rates, and poverty. In Jordan, women are getting good jobs and they are still working on further improving this matter.

The main results are: (1) respondents felt that there is a widening gap between the outputs of higher education and the needs of the labor market; (2) respondents felt that job opportunities should be a monopoly to Jordanian citizens. Similarly, foreign respondents opposed Jordanian nationals acquiring jobs in the gulf region; (3) respondents felt that oppression, unemployment, poverty and inflation is evident in Jordan, yet people's generosity, goodness and nobility is more evident; and (4) comments concerning COVID-19 and unemployment were scarce as the Defense Law No. 13 was applied to protect their occupations only 2%. The social listening of Investing in Youth in The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has been valuable as it has allowed to test hypothesis and supporting statements. From social listening some areas were revealed as good aspects to explore such as (1) notably matching educational outputs to labor market needs; (2) investing in youth entrepreneurial skills; (3) addressing socioeconomic inequalities and vulnerabilities; and (4) making a real change in gender equality and woman's empowerment.

Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva, MP Kyrgyzstan, introduced Kyrgyzstan and its demographics. Kyrgyzstan is a landlocked country in Central Asia bordered by Kazakhstan to the north, Pakistan to the West, Tajikistan to the South, and China to the East. The problem of rapid population growth remains the most important and acute one in the region. From 2015 to 2020, the population of the Kyrgyz Republic has increased by almost 630,000 people or 11%. By 2050, it is expected to grow to 9 million. Considering the geography, 90% of the country is mountains. Half of the country's population is younger than 24 years old, 17% is 7 years old and younger and 21% is 7 to 17 years old. One-third of young people live in urban settlements and almost 70% in rural areas. Kyrgyzstan has high divorce rates; 1 in 3 marriages in urban areas break up and 1 in 5 in villages end up the same. There is an increase of GBV, underage marriages, and adolescent birth rates. Migration also poses significant challenge to the country with high immigration rates of young people, people of reproductive age and qualified professionals. Before the pandemic, the migration turnover with Russia was almost 2 million. Currently in the capital and in two big cities, there is huge numbers of internal migration. The policy makers are facing the big pressure for the health and the educational systems to keep up. The number of youths entering the labor market is estimated to be very high and demographic shifts connected with youth and migration is affecting joint efforts to reduce poverty and inequality. Young adults need to fulfill their potential for which policies

are needed to cover strategic investments in education, health, and family planning. The Kyrgyz government has developed the youth policy concept in 2020-2030 which is a strategic document designed to respond to the challenges in the development of youth. The purpose of the concept is to create an effective system of youth development. Kyrgyz government recognized acuteness of employment challenges in the country and working actively to address them through legislation, policies, and other government programs. So far for the policy actions, the government is building demography resilient cities, mainstreaming demography-informed policies, strengthening the educational component of demography and population studies, youth empowerment and supporting the youth platforms, including youth entrepreneurship and youth initiatives, ensuring space safe spaces for young girls, and healthy transition of young people.

Hon. Miyaji Takuma, MP Japan, started by saying that Japan seems to be in a totally different situation compared to Jordan and Kyrgyzstan. From 2008, Japan already is starting to see a decline in its population from the peak of 128 million, 3 million dropped already. Japan is experiencing declining birthrate and ageing society. Thus, the young people and their employment situation is quite different. The youth labor population is defined between 15-34 years old and in 2022, it comprised of 17.23 million. Japan's population is 125 million and young workers comprise less than 30% of the total workforce. This trend is having an impact on the labor market. From 2021 to 2022, the younger people compared to other generations are seeing a higher unemployment rate. This is something unique to Japan because there is a tendency for companies to employ students fresh out of university or high school. In 2001, this was a time when Japan's economy was down and it was the "Ice Age of employment" for the young people. Companies refrain from hiring new people because the regular workers are very difficult to lay off from an employer's point of view, thus, once the economy goes down and the business is suffering, companies cut the cost by refraining from recruiting new employees. The toughest time was 10% unemployment rate, but as the economy improved, the unemployment rate dropped to less than 5% in 2022.



Does this mean that there is no problem regarding the employment of the youth? That is not the case because some young people still find it difficult to find a job. In the Japanese labor market, many of the students try to find a job through private sector agents. These private agents are not always capable of finding jobs for everyone. In that case, the government has the so-called "Hello Work", a public job placement center where the government supports job-seekers by organizing information on job openings, listening to the needs of students, and customizing support to everyone. They have a multi-layer of support until the time that the person manages to find their job. Through this system, some 100,000 people every year managed to find a job. Another unique issue to Japan is that young people find it very difficult to become a regular worker, and instead they become irregular workers. The problem with that is that they cannot benefit fully from social security, pension, medical insurance, or have retirement allowance as they are not eligible to receive these benefits. The Japanese government worried that this would become a major social issue so they conduct re-skilling of the youth as a measure to overcome this situation. Another issue is young people find it difficult to stay with the company. Japan has a practice of lifelong employment. But as the needs of the young people are becoming more diversified, young people tend to leave the job in three years. It is not to say that they have to work with the same company throughout their career, but when these people leave the company,

they find it difficult to find another job. Thus, Japan enacted a law seven years ago to promote the employment of youth. This aims to see an increase in the retention rate of the young employees.

Hon. Sebastian Kapufi, MP Tanzania and Chair of TPAPD, introduced Tanzania as a country located East Africa and home to Mount Kilimanjaro. Tanzania has two distinct phases of the demographic dividend. The first phase starts from more people in working age, thus, more production, and the other one is all about the accumulation of human and physical capital. Tanzania, a population of 61 million where 51% comprise of women and 49% men. Its age structure shows that 56% are below the age of 19. Age structure has a median age of 18.7 years old and only four percent is over the age of 65. This age structure presents an opportunity to benefit from the demographic dividend, if the right policies are put in place. Future challenges include need to provide adequate basic services, such as schooling, healthcare, housing, and employment. COVID-19 deepened youth unemployment in key sectors, such as tourism, hotel, and education. The youth in Tanzania experienced loneliness, stress, and fear due to the uncertainties around their future, education, the local economy, and the threat of COVID-19, and especially, young women were more vulnerable to early marriage and unintended pregnancies.

Some of Tanzania's commitments on demographic dividend and ICPD25 in Nairobi include empowering and investing in adolescents and youth in education; promoting employment opportunities, increasing access to comprehensive age-appropriate SRH services to adolescents and young people in and out of schools and health facilities; and, sustaining political will among leaders at all levels and increasing by 10% the portion of youth and the women in decision making. The government is strengthening higher education and vocational training and education institutes to expand the number of tertiary graduates. The government is implementing a new skills improvement program which is aimed at boosting youth skills to enable them to contribute more to the economy. The government established these skills development programs for young people that are implemented by the Prime Minister's office, including agricultural training for home nursery and technology. Through the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank, the government provides loans to youth economic groups which are strategically positioned to engage in agricultural projects. Building a Better Tomorrow-Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) is engaging youth in the agricultural sector for sustainable and improved livelihoods. About 800 youth are now in the camps in the period of 8 years, BBT-YIA intends to achieve 12,000 profitable enterprises in 12,000 villages across the country. Tanzania's Policy Framework for Demographic Dividend includes Tanzania Development Vision 2025, a five-year plan for the national accelerated actions.

Mr. Stephen Omollo, Chief Executive Officer of Plan International, underscored that the young people are calling everyone to act. People are saying "talking is done and now it is time to act". His message is the message of action and solidarity. Commitments and resolutions have been made but there is less action. There is 1.8 billion young people asking parliamentarians to take urgent action. The demographic dividend and large cohort of young people is a common theme running in many countries but the SDGs will not be achieved if the young people are not at the core of change and transformation. Demographic dividend will only last for a limited amount of time before population starts to age, and hence it is urgent to act now. As he opened the floor for discussion, he invited a young person in the audience so that the body can hear the voices of the young people.

Open discussion

Hon. Elizabeth Barker, MP UK, asked Hon. Miyaji whether the statistics of Japan on unemployment and work opportunities had differentiated between young men and young women.

Hon. Dr. Rouhollah Motefakker Azad, MP Iran, shared that as a result of sharp declining fertility over the last three decades, the birth rate of Iran has decreased, and that the country has to harness its demographic divide. While the life expectancy is at 75 years old in 2022, the number and proportion of older person is expected to continue increasing from 10 million to nearly 13 million in 2050. Iran explores to develop effective strategies to propel these issues in national policies. Unfortunately, unilateral sanctions and external factors have hampered the access of vulnerable segments of societies in affected countries, to decent jobs and education requirement, thus, threatening the life, livelihood, and dignity of those citizens.

Dr. Alvaro Bermejo, Director General of IPPF, referenced the previous panel, which was that gender gap and discrimination is hurting economies and, in the present panel, the focus is on the opportunities in the demographic dividend. He asked the panel, will the demographic dividend become real if there is continuous increase in the gender gap and in the discrimination of LGBTQ+ communities in countries?

Hon. Lork Kheng, MP Cambodia, shared the experience of Cambodia, particularly of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, that has developed the national policy to promote the right and responsibility of youth. This national policy has set a goal of providing youth with opportunity to get quality and equal access to education and vocational training. It hopes to develop their sense of initiative, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship, and promote gender equity and equality among youth, especially creating opportunity and empowerment. It is also for their personal development, in terms of physical strength, knowledge, skills, morality spirit of living together in peace and harmony, and providing opportunity for youth to express opinions and perspectives. It also mobilizes the effort of all relevant ministries and civil society organizations towards institutional development. Cambodia also has a Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia established (UYFC) in 1978. UYFC has played very important role of mobilization and education among 6,000 members.

Hon. Aroma Dutta, MP Bangladesh, asked how much of these policies are converted into action. Second, how is the demographic dividend converted into national assets? Third, people who were left behind, particularly women, seem to be not included in the process. What will be the role of young women and girls from looking into gender gaps?

Responses

Hon. Rida Shibli, MP Jordan, responded that everyone has to work in a holistic approach to get things done together. Prioritize the concept of “human security,” because otherwise it will not work. In case of child marriage in conflict areas, some people get their daughters married because they want their daughters to be with a husband rather than to get raped because of the situation. He suggested putting the social human security on top of vision and work on a holistic approach.

Wrap-up

Mr. Stephen Omollo shared two points. First, the call for action is to invest in young people. This is very important for making societies economically dynamic and for building peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable societies. Second, there is a need to provide different opportunities for youth, enabling them to become a driving force for sustainable development.

Hon. Dilrabo Mansuri, Deputy Speaker of Tajikistan believed that the session had a fruitful discussion that will contribute to the demographic dividend, through employment opportunities for young people. With that, she closed session 3.

Session 4

Ageing Population and Healthy Longevity

Some countries are experiencing significant demographic changes, including an ageing population. Rapid ageing requires parliaments to adopt relevant legislation and governments to implement policies that decrease the negative impacts of an ageing population. Poor and irrational policies can negatively affect population ageing, wellbeing and healthy living. How can we enable older persons to lead healthy, productive and dignified life and realize the second demographic dividend for economic and social development? Participants will present their own country's practical examples.

Session chair: Hon. Nguyen Hoang Mai, MP Vietnam

Presentation

Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand and the Secretary General of AFPPD, opened his presentation on ageing population and healthy longevity in Thailand by presenting its population of 66,080,812 based on data from December 2022. There were 502,107 births and 595,965 deaths. Ten percent of the country's population are aged 65 and above in 2010-2015; by 2055-2060, it is projected to increase to as high as 32%. This means that nearly 1 in 3 of the total population is ageing. Based on the Old Persons Survey by the National Statistics Organization of Thailand in 2021, 1.8% of them are home-bound while 1.3% are bed-bound. There are more females (2.2%) who are home-bound than males (1.4%). To determine whether ageing is a threat or an opportunity depends on the individual or structural design. The population quality promotion for healthy and energetic ageing throughout life underscores that volume is less important than quality. Decreased workforce can be replaced with workforces from abroad, using technology, research and development, and promotion of marriage and having children. Thailand's Population Development Plan for a Sustainable Future 2022-2037 aims for well birth, well live, and well ageing. The Madrid Plan 2002 aims to take action to increase participation in the labor market of the working age population and to reduce the risk of exclusion or dependency in later life. It hopes to remove disincentives to working beyond retirement age. Older persons should be enabled to continue with income-generating work for as long as they want and for as long as they are able to do so productively. Promote, as appropriate, a new approach to retirement that takes account of the needs of the employees as well as the employers by applying the principle of flexible retirement policies and practices, while maintaining acquired pension rights.

Health promotion for the elderly in Thailand includes early screening, promotion of quality elderly club or elderly school, promotion of healthy ageing on smart walk, smart brain and emotion, smart sleep and smart eat, integrated community-based long-term care, age-friendly city/community, oral health promotion, and integrated services for healthy ageing (4 ministries). There is a need to rethink how countries prepare for the ageing process to let people lead active and healthy lives. To improve the living standards of future ageing generations, investment in the current younger generation is needed to promote healthy lifestyles, education, employment opportunities, access to medical services and social security for all workers. Also, if countries are to incorporate older generations smoothly into the labor market, flexible employment, lifelong learning and retraining opportunities should be expanded.

Ms. Minamida Yasuko, Group leader, Ageing Group, International Affairs Committee (Global Health Committee), Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA), started her presentation with recognizing that there is rapid ageing of the world's population. The increase in non-communicable diseases associated with an ageing population is recognized as a global challenge. Cost analysis of impact of health associated with ageing shows that among non-communicable diseases, dementia and cancer are reported to have a huge impact on medical and nursing care cost, as well as informal care cost defined as the cost of the time spent by family members caring for a person without payment. The global dementia-related costs are estimated to reach \$2.8 trillion by 2030. The global cost for cancer treatment is also increasing every year and is expected to exceed \$300 billion by 2026. In the domestic field, it was reported that as dementia increases, the informal care cost is going to increase as well. The number of people living with dementia is increasing worldwide. It is estimated to reach 152 million in 2050. In Japan, it is predicted that by 2025, 1 in 3 will be over 65 years old and one in five of these people will live with dementia. WHO Global Action Plan for Dementia's main goal is to develop and update national plans for dementia by 2025. Annual reviews and reports of this WHO Action Plan shows that its implementation has been slow. The framework for promoting dementia care in Japan's ageing society aims to delay the onset of dementia and to create a society in which people with dementia can live their daily lives with hope even after the onset of dementia. Another aim is to promote initiatives that will advance inclusion and risk reduction. Various measures are being promoted under the Framework for Promoting Dementia Care. On the other hand, deepening efforts to realize a symbiotic society and develop interventions for risk reduction and early detection are needed.



Advancing age is the most important risk factor for cancer overall. Evidence is needed on the best ways of managing and treating older people living with cancer. Although the most common age group varies by type of cancer, the incidence rates for cancer overall climb steadily as age increases. More than half of all new cancer cases occur in those aged 65 and older, and this age group accounts for 70% of cancer deaths. Yet, even in advanced states such as the US, Japan and countries within the EU, health systems are not always identifying specific needs of older people living with cancer or defining individualized care pathways for them. For cancer, development of digital medicines and accurate information will support the cancer treatment as well as self-check tool for cognitive function utilizing digital technology. She underscored that the key is promotion of preventive interventions and reducing risk factors, such as lifestyle diseases. In addition, industry government partnership led by government on other key items to accelerate the industry-academia-government partnerships led by governments to accelerate the development and evaluation of prevention programs for dementia and NCDs, participation in early-stage clinical trials and develop innovative therapeutics and diagnostic technologies. International regulatory convergence to achieve the creation of and access to new drugs needed for the elderly and international data exchange utilization including aggregation and utilization.

Hon. Hwangbo Seung-hee, MP Korea, presented South Korea is the number one among low birth rate countries in the world with a birth rate of 0.73. The population of those aged 65 or older in South Korea is expected to surpass 10 million in 2025. This rate of ageing is about 20%, representing the country's entry into becoming a super aged society. The median age was 18 in 1970, but it became 43 in 2020, and is expected to be 54 in 2040. Baby boomers in South Korea are the post-war generation born from

1955 to 1963. These Korean baby boomers began becoming elderly in 2020. The nation's working age population, aged 15 to 64, began to decline in 2016. Thus, ageing is an acute issue for South Korea. South Korea enacted a framework to act on low birth rate in an ageing society and established the Presidential Committee on Ageing Society and Population Policy in 2005. Basic plans for ageing society and population policy have been worked out every five years since 2006. Currently, the 4th plan is in place. The followings are some of the major actions that have come out of these plans:

First is alleviating poverty among the elderly. The South Korean government is increasing its responsibility for eliminating poverty among the elderly. In 2021, about 180,000 low-income elderly people became recipients of the livelihood benefits, while 30,000 of existing recipients received additional benefits. The government also intends to raise the basic pensions. Recipients earning the bottom 70% in income in 2021 are now receiving a basic pension of up to 300,000 Korean won per month (\$300). South Korea is also employing more senior citizens to guarantee them a minimum level of income. The number of senior citizens employed increased from 437,000 in 2017 to 800,000 in 2021. Second is guaranteeing old age incomes. South Korea is striving to strengthen old age income guarantees in public and private pension plans. An introduction of a retirement pension system will be made mandatory for all companies, along with the retirement pension fund system for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to guarantee income for retired workers from SMEs or micro enterprises. Third is expanding medical and public health services. According to Statistics Korea, the average life expectancy was 82 years of age as of 2018, but the average expectancy of a healthy life was only 64 years which means people will suffer from diseases in the later years of their lives. Items are being included such as health checkup for the elderly. Depression and other mental health issues are serious among the elderly in South Korea. There are plans to expand depression screening for high-risk groups of senior citizens, like those leaving alone. South Korea is also strengthening medical services for seniors who have mobility challenges with ICT devices for constant monitoring and better measurement of health information. Fourth is creating a senior friendly living environment. Seniors want to continue to live in their homes which are often more and more hazardous for the elderly as they age. South Korea is considering expanding the supply of the public rental housing tailored to the needs of senior citizens, such as more assistance for home improvements to meet the needs of the elderly occupants. The government announced a plan to develop models for homes with the easier access to medical care and nursing care. These models can be in various sizes and forms depending on whether they are in large cities, the suburbs, or rural areas. Fifth is supporting for the final years of life. Social demand is increasing but regrettably most people do not prepare well for the last years of their lives. South Korea is working towards improving the quality of hospice care. Plans are being worked out to expand eligibility for hospice care to include people with 13 different diseases. These plans include expanding public hospice care centers and general quality care services.

Sustainable growth is impossible without finding a resolution to the issue of ageing societies. Possible ramifications from population ageing may include worsening demographic structure, slowing economic growth, worsening national finances, and increasing generational conflict. Intensive change is called for in our thinking and relevant social systems.

Dr. Ochiai Leon, Head of Public Affairs, Sanofi Japan, opened his presentation on infectious diseases related topic by introducing Sanofi Japan, a French pharmaceutical company that has health tools form prevention (such as vaccine, specialty care for oncology and immunology), more general health tools (such as insulin for diabetes), and for consumer healthcare. He recognized the fact that protecting the health of older adults is critical, and important for the society and economy. It is not just the health of

the individual but collectively what they can impact on the society. In Japan, people aged 50 and over already accounted for more than 2 in 5 workers (40% of the workforce) in 2017. Projection suggests that this would rise to nearly 50% in the next 10 to 20 years. More than 3 in 5 Japanese yen were spent on families that by older household led by people aged 50 and older in 2015. The value of unpaid contribution by older people engaged in volunteering and caring others, for example, equate to the 1% of the GDP.

Way before COVID-19, we were also attacked by influenza.

We may consider any infectious disease as something that affects younger children, but in fact there are many infectious diseases that can impact all age groups. It does not only impact them with the disease itself, but it can create complications. Influenza can impact every age group in very different ways. Studies suggest that eight times increased risk of pneumonia is seen in children under the age of 14, while 8 times increased risk of stroke is seen in older age group of persons. Ten times increased risk in heart attack is seen in an older age group of people. It is not



just influenza; it is that influenza and many other complications that are impacting those who get the disease. Specifically, about the older age group, if there are 100 patients and elderly patients get influenza when they go to hospital and look for care, about 70% of them will come out fine. Unfortunately, some people die, but those who recovered may be very weak and cannot come back to work. At least three out of 100 people will end up going to nursing care just because they have influenza. Measuring disease impact is not just about the health of the individual or the health of the society but economic consequences as well. When calculating health economics, experts often talk about the microeconomic cost. How it can impact an individual and indirectly, their family. It showed that influenza can impact an economy both in terms of the micro and macro aspects. How is this being addressed? One of the initiatives is the UN decade of healthy ageing. It clearly states that prevention is a key and vaccine is a tool. Immunization is a great tool to do better to address childhood mortality; however, immunization can be a tool for the whole age groups. Sanofi Japan believes in protecting not just the individual but in protecting the public health with the vaccines. Vaccine can really be a tool in not just saving lives as a child but prolonging older people's lives.

In conclusion, Dr. Leon underscored that it is not the vaccine that saves lives, it is the vaccination. Sanofi Japan may be producing the vaccine and shipping around the world, but the government has its role to play in immunizing people, children, adults, and elderly to protect them from infectious diseases. Some examples of partnership for disease prevention include working with international agencies for access to vaccines; addressing the scientific elements of vaccine, such as disease surveillance together with government data collecting mechanisms; and conducting research and development with other pharmaceutical entities.

Facilitator

Dr. Mori Rintaro, Regional Adviser for Population Ageing and Sustainable Development, UNFPA APRO, shared his observations on the session's presentations. In 2020, the United Nations Economist Network published a paper talking about five megatrends: climate change; demographic shifts, particularly population ageing; urbanization; the emergence of digital technologies; and inequalities. These trends

determined the future of the world. The presentations shared very interesting case studies in Thailand, South Korea, and on infectious diseases such as influenza from a private sector perspective. His three observations on ageing population are the following:

First is that care and support for older persons are two different interconnected things. There is a need to talk about support for individual persons regardless of the population dynamics or emerging population trends. The situations around the population trends are different by countries. His second observation is that many countries implied that they are worried about financial sustainability of population ageing. In the first demographic dividend, the age structure is the number of young persons is larger than that of older persons. These countries enjoy the first dividend. The second demographic dividend, on the other hand, means that having taken advantage of population ageing or fertility the country could have more savings by investing more on the smaller number of children to increase the productivity of these population. Third observation is the longevity dividend by encouraging older persons to work. In Japan, this is very successful. While the population growth declines, the number of employments increased because older persons are motivated to work. Fourth is the gender dividend. Women's labor force participation is the opportunity in the context of population ageing, including Japan. When talking about all financial sustainability of population aging, there is a need to think about reducing the financial burden which is linked to healthy ageing. Countries need to invest early based on a lifecycle approach. Investing early is cost effective and prevention is very important. Hypertension and diabetes are more common to men than women, but menopause is exclusive to women. Therefore, gender is a huge consideration in ageing.

Open discussion

Hon. Okuno Shinsuke, MP from Japan, made an intervention regarding healthy life expectancy of the elderly in Japan to be over 72 years for men and over 75 years for women. However, Japan may still lack in being healthy in the period between healthy life expectancy and average life expectancy. In that sense, people must personally think about what they should do to live longer and healthier. Think about the different regions across the country and observe what they eat. There are things that cannot be done by individual efforts alone; thus, it is necessary for the government to take steps to maintain good health and maintain a long average life expectancy.

Hon. Risa Hontiveros, MP Philippines, commented that Dr. Mori made an important point about the second demographic dividend and gender dividend. She reiterated the question from the previous session, "When will we be able to earn the demographic dividend from our young people?" Will countries be able to earn the second demographic dividend of healthy ageing senior citizens if countries fail to generate the gender dividend or close the gender gap? Also, regarding Hon. Dr. Sirathranont and Hon. Seung-hee shared their best practices, Hon. Dr. Sirathranont talked about service-connected housing for senior citizens. It is one of the best practices here in the Asia Pacific or in the world that allows senior citizens to still live independently but with the support that they need. This is important especially in terms of healthy ageing and lifelong earnings. Lastly, she thanked Dr. Ochiai for mentioning the value of the unpaid contributions by older people in Japan which is 1% of the GDP or even higher. It returns to what women and feminist movements say that the value of the unpaid work of women, especially inside the house, should be factored into the GDP. It should also be made a basis for a pension to all women, including those who have been lifetime homemakers. Because work inside the home has as much value as the work outside the home.

Hon. Mayfong Mayxay, MP Lao PDR, commented that in order to have a healthy ageing population and healthy longevity, there is a need to start to have a healthy young people. To achieve it, it is important to prevent noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). He urged the parliamentarians to encourage the government, particularly the Ministry of Health, to promote the prevention of the NCDs, like diabetes. Secondly, early screening for diseases, like cancer, is important. In order to have a healthy life, eating healthy food is very crucial. For instance, Japanese people eat very healthy food and thus have very healthy population, especially the elderly.

Hon. Angela Warren-Clark, MP New Zealand, mentioned that all countries to consider the strategies for how to support people as they age, because their vulnerability grows as they become more isolated due to old age. Another point is that in New Zealand, they are looking towards a system of universal design of housing. This refers to a house that does not need to be retrofitted as a person age and becomes less physically able to move around their home.

Hon. Dr. Florian Bodog, MP Romania pointed out that it is necessary to also add years to life and it can be done by prevention and treatment of diseases. Hence, investment in research is necessary.

Responses

Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont agreed with the comment from Hon. Mayxay. Healthy eating is good but he thinks that it is not enough. He mentioned the importance of eating healthy even before the intended pregnancy. And afterwards, young people and working population should also continue observing a healthy diet.

Ms. Minamida Yasuko believes that the key is promotion of preventive interventions. She asked the parliamentarians to include this in their further discussion toward the G7 Summit.

Dr. Ochiai Leon expressed that it is good to discuss data and putting them into actual empowerment of the people. The work of policy making is exactly what pharmaceutical industry requests when partnering with the parliamentarians and policymakers toward making the world a better place.

Dr. Mori Rintaro added his thoughts on gender dividend. There are some examples or cases in small villages, such as in Utashinai, the smallest village in Japan, where reaping the gender dividend was possible. Second, in ageing, eating and exercise habits are all very important. A Harvard study emphasized that the most important determinants for healthy ageing is the quality of relationships, in particular, the quality of close relationship. GBV needs to be prevented but how to build better relationship should also be discussed as it has an impact on healthy ageing. Third, following the life cycle approach, age friendly environment is important to the elderly, as well as to people with a disability and children. Friendly environment to all generations is a must.

Wrap-up

Hon. Nguyen Hoang Mai, MP Vietnam thanked the panelists for their fruitful contributions and closed the session.

Session 5

The Parliamentarians Networks in Addressing ICPD25 Commitments and 2030 Agenda in the Post-COVID World

The role of parliamentary networks is increasing on a global scale. Donors have been supporting such networks, encouraging effective and productive partnership for the benefit of our societies. AFPPD and APDA are also among those networks and their activities have been generously supported by the Government of Japan through the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), aiming to strengthen regional cooperation as well as the inter-regional South-South partnership among parliamentarians and National Committees in Africa, the Arab region and Asia to address population issues. It is vital to define how they relate to one another as networks. How can parliamentarians create effective legislation and global partnerships to address the ICPD25 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensure the safety of society by improving global governance and risk management in the post-COVID era?

Session Chair: Hon. Fredrick Outa, Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs of Kenya, Vice-President of the Africa Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA)

Presentations

Hon. Suematsu Yoshinori, MP Japan, talked about Japan's partnerships and support to parliamentarians around the world. JPFP was founded in 1974. It was the first supra party parliamentary group on population and development to establish a network with parliamentary forums for population and development in various regions of the world. In 2000, the Japanese government established JTF within UNFPA to support activities related to population and development. JTF facilitated a network of parliamentarians and interregional projects around the world. In preparation for ICPD 25th anniversary Nairobi Summit in 2019, the Arab and Asian parliamentarians meeting on population and development for ICPD25 was conducted with the support of JTF. He was there and to emphasized the following three points, namely, (1) addressing the unfinished business of the ICPD PoA is essential to achieving the SDGs; (2) as a specific part of reproductive health initiative, efforts to prevent unwanted pregnancies are important in reducing poverty and stabilizing population growth; and (3) early education on population issues and reproductive health is crucial. In order to address the unfinished business of ICPD PoA and achieve SDGs, it is very critical for parliamentarians, in addition to their roles of securing the necessary budget, enact legislation and exercise administrative oversight, to take in the various opinions of the people, and make concrete proposals aimed at realizing the welfare of the people.



Last year, the world population surpassed 8 billion and more than half of the world's population growth by 2050 is expected to come from those Sub-Saharan countries of Africa. In the past, JPFP helped

establish national committees on population and development in Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Lao PDR, and other countries. They have committed by providing for environmental improvement including legislation, budget mobilization, and institutional design that have contributed significantly to population stabilization and social development. In addition, the sharing of knowledge and experiences through JTF projects has resulted in enhancing accountability of their respective government and transparency of ODA by the parliamentarians of Uganda, Zambia, and Kenya. In the future, in order to eliminate the disparities and inequalities and to address various transnational challenges, such as conflict, climate change, infectious disease, and pandemics, the role of parliamentarians' networks will become increasingly important. Given this situation, JPFP and JTF activities need to be further reinforced.

Hon. Pemmy Majodina, MP Republic of South Africa, opened her presentation by recognizing the conference as a space wherein parliamentarians can discuss how to use their power as representatives of the people to resolve complex challenges that the world is faced with today. The outbreak of coronavirus caused a multitude of negative global impact, reminding everyone that the world is interconnected and that boundaries are not bulletproof. Nor are there silver bullets against global disasters and challenges. However, most importantly, the outbreak brought parliamentarians to work together in confronting common challenges. The important words in the conference are empowerment, access to basic needs, gender equality, peace, and solidarity. Coming from the country with a history of an apartheid regime that suppressed every other person except a few, international solidarity was key in attaining South Africa's liberation and freedom. Reflecting on the SDGs makes one think of what must be done across the globe to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote



sustainable agriculture. The World Bank's report on poverty in 2022 indicates that global poverty rates went up to 8.4% in 2019. The world's poorest people's income losses were twice as high as the world's richest, and global inequality rose for the first time in decades. She urged the parliamentarians to do self-introspection about who they are and their responsibilities to join efforts in solving global common challenges. She underscored the need to stop working in solo, but to work together as a team that strives to achieve a common goal.

Parliamentarian networks remain an important catalyst to reach the ICPD PoA and SDG s. The challenge has been exacerbated by the outbreak of coronavirus and the speed of the outbreak of natural disasters which forced many countries to reprioritize their budget. Inevitably, the current life-threatening challenges have slightly lowered the acceleration towards the attainment of the long term ICPD25 Commitments and for Sustainable Development (2030Agenda). It is true that parliamentarian networks can close the wide gap to achieve common commitments.

Parliamentary networks are not only those at the global level, such as IPU, but also about parliamentarian networks at all levels: national, regional, and continental. It is very important that governments must work with NGOs and existing interest groups in finding solutions to the challenges that hinder progress. Communities and the people must be involved in order to sustain interventions. She urged to do things not on behalf of the people but with the people for it to be sustainable. APDA, the

secretariat of JPFP, is a very good example of the importance and benefits of the parliamentary networks. From the continent of Africa, parliamentarians have been working with APDA. Collaboration between parliamentarians have strengthened political will to increase the impact of meeting global challenges through development of national and regional framework and laws. Other examples of ongoing collaboration with parliamentarians, include the Parliamentary Front against Hunger (PFH) in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Japan-Philippine Parliamentarians' Friendship League (JPPFL), FAO Legislative Advisory Group-Philippines (FLAG-PH), and the European Parliamentary Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition. The multiplicity and multifaceted nature of challenges called upon us to work together in tackling the common challenges through forging partnership networks and collaboration.

Hon. Florian Bodog, MP Romania, started his presentation with Romania's membership to EU since 2007. Through its membership, it has gained benefits and opportunities to offer its own input to the entire process of consolidating the European union. He acknowledged that the problem that societies are facing are for the most part, global problems. The population growth and its challenges, the ageing of the population, the gender inequality, and the needs of the young people must be addressed through commonly defined and agreed principles. However, there is no one-size-fits-all solution because societies are diverse and different. Cultures, tradition, history, religion, form of government, and many other factors must not be ignored. The ICPD PoA is closely linked to the 2030 Agenda. Its goals are to end poverty, promote gender equality, and ensure access to quality healthcare by 2030. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the progress made towards achieving the ICPD commitment and the 2030 agenda. It has caused economic instability, disrupted access to health services, and in some cases, exacerbated gender inequality. It has also disproportionately affected vulnerable population. In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, there is a need for stronger network of parliamentarians as it provides a platform for dialogue and collaboration between parliamentarians from different countries and regions, as well as between parliamentarians and other stakeholders. Through this network, parliamentarians can raise awareness of population and development issue, advocate for greater investment in these areas, and ensure that the commitments made are implemented. Parliamentary network not only provides a venue for sharing the best practice and knowledge exchange, but it is essential also for democratic point of view. Going forward, it is essential to continue to incorporate the ICPD commitment into the post COVID world and ensure that parliamentarians remain at the forefront of this agenda. Parliamentary networks must continue to have a strong presence in the struggle of healthcare and safer and fairer future for all.

To improve global governance and risk management system in the post-COVID era, he proposed eight steps, namely; (1) strengthen cross sectoral cross-border collaboration and partnership by establishing international fora and multi stakeholder platforms to facilitate dialogue between stakeholders and to coordinate and develop policy initiatives, particularly with focus on the ICPD25 and the 2030 Agenda; (2) enhance the capacity of parliamentarians to develop, monitor and evaluate policies, legislation and initiatives, and to ensure that they are aligned with global standards; (3) support global initiatives to improve risk management and global governance, such as increasing transparency and improving data collection and analysis, and strengthening digital infrastructure; (4) promote policies and legislation to protect the rights of vulnerable population and to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the global economy; (5) increase the use of technology to facilitate access to essential services and support vulnerable population; (6) enhance parliamentary oversight of public funds from international cooperation and global health initiatives; (7) advocate for increase in resources to support the

implementation of the ICPD25 and the 2030 Agenda, including through international development assistance; and (8) implement measures to ensure accountability for the use of public funds.

Hon. Dr. Souhail Alouini, former MP Tunisia, Chair of East Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum of Health and Wellbeing, opened his presentation with revisiting the ICPD Cairo in 1994. 179 government adopted the forward-looking 20-year PoA focusing on people-centered development policies and programs that place human rights, reproductive health, and gender equality at the center of their efforts. The PoA was reviewed in 2019 known as the ICPD25. Governments and stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to the ICPD and pledged to accelerate efforts to achieve its goals by 2030. The parliamentary network can be regional, national, or international in scope and may focus on the wide range of issues, including SRHR. It can provide the platform for legislators to share best practice, collaborate on advocacy efforts, and build momentum for policy change. They can amplify the voice of legislators advocating for policies and law. Some examples of parliamentary network include the Forum of the Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD) was established in 2012 to address population and development issues in the Arab region. AFPPD, established in 1982 is a parliamentary network in the Asia Pacific region. The Regional Parliamentary Forum for Health and Well-being, opened in Tunisia in 2019, is a platform for parliamentarian from the eastern Mediterranean Region.

When it comes to the responding of COVID-19 pandemic, parliamentarians have a critical role to ensuring the needs of the most vulnerable population are met. His recommendations for parliamentarians include increasing the funding and resources for population and development programs; promoting policies and rules that support UHC, gender equality, and SRHR and the empowerment of women and girls; strengthening the parliamentary oversight and accountability mechanism to ensure that population and development policies are effectively implemented; and, building an alliance and partnership with civil society organizations, private sector and international development partners to promote population and development goals. In conclusion, ICPD25 commitments are critical to ensuring that every individual has the right to live a healthy and fulfilling life. Parliamentary networks play a critical role in advocating for the implementation of the ICPD25 commitment and promoting population and development goals. It is important for parliamentarians and their networks to work together to ensure that the need of the general population, women, girls, and marginalized groups are met and that all individual has access to resources and opportunities they need to realize their full potential.

Open discussion

Hon. Risa Hontiveros, MP Philippines, began with Hon. Suematsu's message that advancing the ICPD goals and SDGs are twins and they are an important reminder to ask parliamentarians that international legislation must complement each other. She also said that Hon. Majodina made an important point that even national budgets must not be gender biased. Previous annual budgets must be assessed and subsequently formulate annual budgets with a gender lens. She highlighted Hon. Bodog's important point that common principles need to benefit from local inputs since the roots of the problems are also local, therefore solutions should also be implemented at the local level. This is related



to the point that parliamentarians must not just work for their peoples, but with their peoples. She also mentioned that there is a need for stronger networks of parliamentarians to ensure progress towards achieving the SDGs. She said the most important point made in the session is that it is essential to do the intervention from the democratic point of view that also contributes to increasing the legitimacy of global governance especially in the resurgence of authoritarianism and populism. From Hon. Alouini's presentation is the expression of hope that after the conference, there will be a momentum for policy changes as a response to the challenge that it will take another 130 years to achieve gender equality and the decline in human development index for two years in a row.

Mr. Syed Raheem Shah from Pakistan commented on Hon. Majodina's remarks towards Afghanistan. Pakistan was disappointed when Taliban suspended higher education and then later primary education for women in Afghanistan. Pakistan is hosting more than 3 million Afghan refugees. Since the conference is an important platform, he would like to reiterate that Pakistan can provide a lot of help to their education. However, while they have asked Taliban to suspend their decision and allow the education of women, they cannot force the Taliban to do so. Since there were very competent former female legislators from Afghanistan who were participants of AFPPD and most of them are now either based in the UK, USA, or other European countries, he suggested that AFPPD and APDA involve the former parliamentarians in future conferences. He recognized that it is usually the case that the current parliamentarians are invited to the conference, but if those former legislators are given opportunities, much can be done in Afghanistan because most of them have been working for the education in their own capacity.

Hon. Lork Kheng, MP Cambodia, shared her country's campaign to encourage and empower girls to become leaders, not just in politics but in everyday life, work, and society in general. They ask these girls to listen to the experiences of parliamentarians every month in Cambodia. The girls in the secondary school listen to talks of parliamentarians on policies. They also give telephones to all the girls so they can join the campaign and that when a problem arises, these girls can call and talk. It is their hope to guide girls to achieve their dreams to become a leader, just like any other man.

Hon. Aroma Dutta, MP Bangladesh, as coming from Bangladesh, she would like to raise this issue of genocide of the Rohingyas, especially women and children who are the subject of rape and violence. As the conference is about development, peace, and networking, she plead to the parliamentarians to think about a mechanism to have absolute influence so that this kind of persecution may come to an end. As peace loving nations, all must try to echo on all platforms the call to ensure that nations do not spend money on armaments amidst COVID and climate change. What countries need to talk about in a global forum is a peaceful world with partnerships that push for rights-based issues.

Mr. Manohar Bhattarai from Nepal, argued the policy being pursued by the Taliban against women in case of education and day-to-day life in Afghanistan is condemnable. Afterwards, it should be communicated to the Taliban that what they are doing against the women is unacceptable.

Hon. Emanuel Melkiades Luka Lena, MP Indonesia, commented that while the important role of parliamentarians in increasing the commitment to the ICPD and SDGs started with increasing understanding of the issues, sometimes this is not enough. The parliamentarians need to improve empathy on the issues and on the marginalized, e.g., victims of GBV and child marriage. Sharing testimonies from marginalized people is very important to improve our empathy for the problem and the marginalized people.

Wrap-up

Facilitator Dr. Kiyoko Ikegami, Executive Director/Secretary General of APDA, noted several points that were mentioned by the participants, including how the Declaration can include the Afghanistan issue. First, some of the main issues that have been discussed are included in the ICPD PoA which was adopted in 1994. At that time in Cairo, there were also confrontational issues and severe discussions on reproductive health and rights. The conclusion for PoA was to drop the rights part and focus on the reproductive health. Second, and similarly important, is that human security as an entry point for further commitment. Financial and technological support is very much needed, but how to get it is a challenge. Third, on the equitable achieve equal access to health innovation through a network of local, global, and national legislators is something that needs to be discussed in the future. Fourth, comprehensive legislation that can be adopted in order to protect women's rights and health and their family's health. Fifth, action that can be taken to tackle some of the issues in the Anthropocene era and what can be left for the next generations. The last point is on collaboration, not only with members of parliament, but with the private sector, academe, and NGOs. Close collaboration is important that she urged everyone to discuss how and what should be done for the future as the end of the 2030 agenda approaches.

Responses

Hon. Florian Bodog said that as member of the drafting committee of the declaration. Hon. Bodog suggested focusing on areas which are not already covered by G7 summit and eventually, G20. The central concept of which is the respect for the rule of democracy.

Hon. Dr. Souhail Alouini's point is for the parliamentarians to think out-of-the-box. Also, investments to achieve the ICPD commitments, require concerted push from the different countries.

Hon. Lord Tu'i vakano, MP Tonga, made a comment on the very sensitive issues by referencing Hon. Alouini's presentation. It seems that a lot of organizations dealing with population and development are spreading the resources too thinly. He suggested for countries to expand their donors/partners.

Hon. Ahmed Abdulla MP Maldives, shared that in the Maldives, everyone gets primary and secondary education. In 2019, they started the higher education program and those who are interested to continue to higher education can enroll in the free degree program. The young people taking part in that program helps in the development of Maldives. To promote gender equality, they introduced a quota system of 33% in local councils allocated to women. Youth engagement and women empowerment are very important in the national development in the country.

Hon. Angela Warren-Clark, MP New Zealand, pointed out that to support the Afghan women, the declaration can put education more to the forefront. Affirm the right to education for all. Another point is that she would like to advocate for a stronger wording for climate change.

Hon. Toshiko Abe, MP Japan, raised that the issues of leaving no one behind, especially in terms of women's rights, and resources are very important. This also includes how parliamentarians should be engaged using available technologies. Be mindful of possible positive impacts of having new means of supporting financially including crowd funding. There are a lot of people who would like to directly invest into something they feel passionate about. This could be developed into some kind of scheme and through collaboration with different countries in the region. When it comes to UHC, the internet and AI should be utilized as a new means of rolling programs.

Dr. Ikegami's final note on the Taliban Issue, on whether it will be included in the declaration or not, is a reminder that AFFPD serves as a coordination mechanism and does not deal with political issues. This is an information that she hopes the body would consider in the discussion for the final declaration.

Hon. Outa closed Session 5 by recognizing the need to consider the objectives and goals of the organization, AFFPD. He thanked the organizers of the conference and hoped that when participants go back in their respective countries, they would be reminded of the commitments and fulfill it.

Session 6

Adoption of Parliamentarians' Declaration

THE FINAL DECLARATION:

[HTTPS://AFPPD.NET/GCPPD/PRESENTATIONS/S.6/EN_GCPPD2023_DECLARATION.PDF](https://afppd.net/gcppd/presentations/s.6/en_gcppd2023_declaration.pdf)

Session chair: *Hon. Professor Keizo Takemi, Chair of AFFPD and Chair of the Drafting Committee*, emphasized that this parliamentarians' meeting has the function and opportunity to propose not only to the G7, but also the G20 in September. India, an AFFPD Vice Chair, will sit as the G20 President. Hon. Takemi reiterated that parliamentarians are elected by their people and at the same time, they are parliamentarians of individual sovereign nation. Thus, AFFPD as a collective body may have a position that is different from that of the individual member's government. He expressed appreciation of a colleague's mentioning the importance of the JTF but how AFFPD uses this resource depends on the network. We face very serious growing threats, such as climate change and the pandemic, and one country cannot overcome these threats alone. He underscored the need to always collaborate closely with each other.



Hon. Takemi reported that on April 25, the drafting committee and the AFFPD Secretariat finalized its proposed Declaration to the global conference. He requested Dr. Usmonov to read the declaration, after that, he invited comments from the body. The process reflected expressions of support to the Declaration as well as abstention.

After reflecting comments from the audience, the Declaration was adopted. (See Appendix)

Wrap-up

After successfully adopting the Declaration for the G7 and G20, Hon. Takemi thanked everyone for their collaboration. He recognized that each parliamentarian has a different way of thinking and differences but they always overcome such differences. Even if a country has a totally different position, it is important to keep the open and always coexist each other as a global community.

MC: Hon. Kikawada Hitoshi, MP Japan and Secretary General of JPFP

H.E. Kato Katsunobu, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, congratulated the GCPPD2023. In the face of the

global challenges, such as Russia's aggression in Ukraine, COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and widening disparities in poverty around the world, this conference addressed these challenges by focusing on people, particularly on gender equality, investment in youth, and vibrant ageing. Along with the Hiroshima Summit, G7 Labour and Employment Minister's Meeting was held last week where many themes with high affinity with the topics this conference were discussed. It is time to focus on investment in people against the backdrop of demographic changes. Re-skilling is not just about helping workers improve their ability to cope with social changes, but also about improving productivity and raising wages. The G7 countries share the recognition that investment in people is not an expense, but an investment.



Investment in the people will contribute to digital transformation and green transformation to create a virtuous cycle between domestic workers well-being and social and economic activities. To promote health innovation to address various health challenges, including AMR, strengthening of global health activity, responding to public health crises, and contributing to achieving more resilient equitable infrastructure UHC through strengthening health system will also be discussed. It is important to constantly review the health system and make it sustainable to ensure

provision of necessary medical care and nursing care even as the demographic structure changes. Japan has achieved UHC at early stage and has been promoting the establishment of comprehensive community-based care system.

The G7 leaders are expected to discuss how the G7 can contribute to the achievement of UHC and how to facilitate prevention, preparedness, and response to future health crisis, such as prompt information sharing. Global health and labor issues such as the response to infectious diseases, the impact of climate change on human health, and the impact of commodity price surge on the labor market are becoming more and more significant every day and require an international response. In this context, a network of parliamentarians will play an even more important role in addressing global issues that transcend national borders. The adopted declaration is the fruit of vibrant discussions and would reflect learnings from this conference.

Dr. Alvaro Bermejo, Director-General of IPPF acknowledged the significant timing of parliamentarian's conference. In the Anthropocene, this is a particular moment in history where a newborn girl will face enormous challenges in her ability to decide on her body, and maybe for the first time in history, that girl will have fewer options than her mother had. The impact of COVID-19 has made vulnerable groups even more vulnerable and deepened poverty, inequality, and divisions. The ICPD25 pointed out in its

first report how fragile SRHR was and how COVID-19 had revealed the fragility of women's rights and of SRHR. Marginalized and excluded populations are at the heart of human security and it can only be achieved in solidarity. He also reflected on the immense contribution of contraception, giving women the ability to control their own body and their fertility in their empowerment. There is no gender equality without SRHR. In countries that lack access to contraception, many women end up having more children than they want and sometimes even die in that process. The epidemic of GBV was unleashed by COVID-19 and magnified by the conflicts around the world. He thanked Hon. Elham, former MP Afghanistan, for her powerful reminder of the condition women and girls are facing in Afghanistan. There is an absolute need for systematic investments to enable older persons to live healthy, productive, and dignified lives particularly in the context of climate crisis. He is enormously grateful to the conference that that message will be extended to the G7. Japan has showed remarkable leadership in the context of G7, global health, and human security. It is his hope that they can build on these messages and set an example to the world.

Hon. Lia Quartapelle Procopio, MP Italy, mentioned G7 has identified health and human security at the forefront of its 2023 agenda. Across the global health system, the COVID-19 continues to impact community systems and health services, and further exacerbates existing inequalities within and between countries. In November 2022, the UN announced that the human population surpassed 8 billion people. The world is facing the problem of being too many on the planet, but at the same time there are some countries that face the threat of not being enough. Too often, when talking about population, the solution is always linked to women's body and focus on fertility-related policies. But this is not always the best approach as fertility rate fluctuates for a wide variety of reasons. It is fundamental that gender equality is kept as a goal, not the perfect fertility rate. Civil society recommendations to the G7 underscore the protection and advancement of health, equity, and global solidarity to guarantee the rights of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. It is important to commit to ensuring that women and girls, vulnerable groups, and key populations are at the center of global health strategies to leave no one behind. International human rights standards must be translated into urgent action. It is a prerequisite to ensure the fulfillment of other rights and the creation of more inclusive and just societies. Considering the gender dimension of access to health is fundamental to guarantee that women and girls in all their diversity do not face additional obstacles in seeking their rights to health.

SRHR should be considered as a core component of global health and essential services in every policy and context, including humanitarian crises and conflicts. This will avoid the surge in unwanted and unplanned pregnancy, harmful practice of unsafe abortion, still births, and maternal and child and infant mortality. It is important to include comprehensive sexuality education and gender sensitive approach to enhance education systems. This can be achieved through the promotion and increase in access and funding for programs aimed at sexuality education in school. G7 can play a crucial role in achieving gender equality, ending any forms of GBV, and providing quality education. Next year, the meeting of G7 will be held in Italy. It is her hope that all the pressures, observations, and considerations that will be discussed in Japan can find a space of discussion in Italy.

Mr. Klaus Beck, Deputy Regional Director a.i., UNFPA APRO, gave his closing message with compliments about the learning experience. He congratulated the parliamentarians on their deliberations and on the adoption of the declaration. As UNFPA, he looks forward to working with the parliamentarians both in region and with AFPPD and APDA. It is a very exciting time of ICPD30 coming up next year and the post

SDGs area as well. SRHR and gender equality is part of it, but it is not all of it. We must realize that it is part of a global agenda that we must work on together.

Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, Chair of AFPPD, delivered his final message to close the GCPPD2023. He expressed appreciation for the parliamentarians' importance that yields wonderful collaboration. The cultural differences of parliamentarians from Asia, Africa, Arab, and Europe are managed because of their common goals. Parliamentarians' network has the capacity to connect each other and strengthen solidarities to create more positive political momentum in this global community and to overcome many difficult issues. Sustain close collaboration with each other through parliamentarians' networks by which a new basis of the global governance can be built on can be very beneficial for the human society.

In the conference, many difficult issues arose. As a chair, he congratulated the body for addressing these. The next meeting of parliamentarians of this kind will be held in New Delhi as a side event to the G20 summit. He ended his message with expressing thanks to all the parliamentarians, translators, and staff who made the GCPPD successful.

PRPGRAM

Monday 24 April	
<i>Participants Arrival</i>	
15:00 – 16:00	The 94th Executive Committee Meeting of AFPPD (ExCom members only) <i>Venue (International Conference Room, 1st Floor, The 1st Members' Office Building of the HoR)</i>
16:00 – 18:10	The 14th General Assembly of AFPPD (member-states and partners only) <i>Venue (International Conference Room, 1st Floor, The 1st Members' Office Building of the HoR)</i>
Tuesday 25 April	
08:00 – 08:15	Registration for Parliamentarians and National Committee officers (1st floor of the Garden Tower, Hotel New Otani)
08:30 – 08:50	Registration for International Organizations and observers (In Front of the Conference Venue)
08:20 – 08:40	<i>Depart from the hotel and travel to the 1st Members' Office Building of the HoR</i>
09:00 – 10:00	Opening Session <i>Venue (The International Conference Room, 1st Floor, the 1st Members' Office Building of HoR)</i> MC: Hon. Professor Takemi Keizo, MP Japan, Chair of AFPPD <i>Address by the Organizer</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ H.E. Fukuda Yasuo, Former Prime Minister of Japan, Chair of APDA, Honorary Chair of JPFP <i>Address</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Abdelhady El-Kasbey, MP Egypt ➤ Hon. Fredrick Outa, Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of mining, blue economy and maritime affairs of Kenya, Vice-President of FPA ➤ H.E. Hayashi Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan ➤ Mr. Ian McFarlane, Director of Division for Communications and Strategic Partnerships of UNFPA (online) <i>Opening statement</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ H.E. Hosoda Hiroyuki, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan
10:00 – 10:10	Keynote Speech MC: Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, MP Japan, Chair of JPFP <i>Keynote speech</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ H.E. Prime Minister Kishida Fumio, Government of Japan (10 mins)
10:10 – 10:35	<i>Group Photo & Coffee break</i>
10:35 – 11:50	Session 1: World Population hits 8 Billion: What's next? <i>Thematic Questions: On November 15, 2022, the global population exceeded 8 billion people, marking a new milestone for humanity. Despite such growth, the world faces disparities in population growth. Why is population growth a major challenge for societies and especially for least developed countries? What are the implications for global health, sustainable UHC and human development?</i>

	<p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Aisawa Ichiro, MP Japan, Senior Vice Chair of JPPF <p>Facilitator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Pedro Conceição, Director of the Human Development Report Office, UNDP <p>Presentation (10 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Pedro Conceição, Director of the Human Development Report Office, UNDP ➤ Hon. Deepender Hooda, MP India, Vice Chair of AFPPD ➤ Mr. Klaus Beck, Deputy Regional Director a.i., UNFPA APRO ➤ Dr. Koike Toshio, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo; Executive Director of International Center for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) Public Works Research Institute (PWRI), Japan ➤ Mr. Nakayama George, Chair, Committee on Responsible Business Conduct & SDGs Promotion, Keidanren-Japan Business Federation, and Senior Advisor and Former President and CEO, Daiichi Sankyo Co., Ltd. <p>Open discussion and wrap-up (25 minutes)</p>
11:50 – 12:50	Lunch Venue: (Multipurpose Room, 1F, The 1st Members' Office Building of the HoR)
12:50 – 14:05	<p>Session 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Promotion of SRHR and Prevention of GBV in Conflict Areas</p> <p><i>Thematic Questions: Discourse and political commitments at the global and regional levels have paved the way for an unprecedented movement towards women's rights and gender equality over the past decades. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted social inequalities and exacerbated the gaps and challenges still facing women's rights and gender equality. Women have been disproportionately affected and disadvantaged by the pandemic. Also, UN Security Council resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) recognizes that the protection of women and girls in conflict situations as well as their participation in peace processes is important to international peace and security. In the current international context, it is becoming increasingly relevant. To realize women's rights for all, what can parliamentarians do to reduce gender gaps and advance gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as promote a healthy life and well-being for all women and girls?</i></p> <p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Angela Warren-Clark, MP New Zealand, Co-Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment <p>Facilitator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Roopa Dhatt, Executive Director, Women in Global Health <p>Presentation (10 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Baroness Elizabeth Barker, MP the United Kingdom ➤ Hon. Hassan Omar, MP Djibouti ➤ Hon. Risa Hontiveros MP Philippines ➤ Ms. Khadija Elham, former MP Afghanistan (online) ➤ Ms. Nakayama Maho, Director of Peacebuilding Program, Sasakawa Peace Foundation <p>Open discussion and wrap-up (25 minutes)</p>
14:05 – 14:20	Coffee Break
14:20 – 15:35	<p>Session 3: Investing in Youth: Demographic Dividend and Employment Opportunity</p> <p><i>Thematic Questions: At a time when young people are already struggling with disproportionate levels of unemployment and under-employment, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these situations. Many young people have been kept out of school and have been disproportionately and in many ways affected by recent economic and social pressures.</i></p>

	<p><i>Addressing such challenges and the needs of young people requires comprehensive, youth-centered and multi-sectoral approaches. This session will discuss how we can achieve demographic dividends and promote youth participation as an engine of growth and sustainability. What approaches should States take to improve the lifestyle and employment opportunities of young people?</i></p> <p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Dilrabo Mansuri, Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Tajikistan (Co-chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Investing in Youth) <p>Facilitator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Stephen Omollo, Chief Executive Officer of Plan International <p>Presentation (10 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Dr. Rida Shibli, MP Jordan ➤ Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva, MP Kyrgyzstan ➤ Hon. Miyaji Takuma, MP Japan ➤ Hon. Sebastian Kapufi, MP Tanzania, Chair of TPAPD <p>Open discussion and wrap-up (35 minutes)</p>
15:35 – 16:50	<p>Session 4: Ageing Population and Healthy Longevity</p> <p><i>Thematic Questions: Some countries are experiencing significant demographic changes, including an ageing population. Rapid ageing requires parliaments to adopt relevant legislation and governments to implement policies that decrease the negative impacts of an ageing population. Poor and irrational policies can negatively affect population ageing, wellbeing and healthy living. How can we enable older persons to lead healthy, productive and dignified life and realize the second demographic dividend for economic and social development? Participants will present their own country's practical examples.</i></p> <p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Nguyen Hoang Mai, MP Vietnam <p>Facilitator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Mori Rintaro, Regional Adviser for Population Ageing and Sustainable Development, UNFPA APRO <p>Presentation (10 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP Thailand, Secretary General of AFPPD ➤ Ms. Minamida Yasuko, Group leader, Aging Group, International Affairs Committee (Global Health Committee), Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA) ➤ Hon. Ms. Hwangbo Seung-hee, MP Korea ➤ Dr. Ochiai Leon, Head of Public Affairs, Sanofi Japan <p>Open discussion and wrap-up (35 minutes)</p>
16:50 – 17:10	Travel back to hotel
16:50-17:50	Drafting Committee Meeting
19.00	Depart from the hotel
19.15 – 20.45	Official Reception Hosted by Speaker of the House of Representatives (Venue: The Official Residence of the Speaker of the House)
Wednesday 26 April	
08:40	Meet at the entrance

09:00-09:20	Registration: In Front of the Conference
09:30 – 11:15	<p>Session 5: The Parliamentarians Networks in Addressing ICPD25 Commitments and 2030 Agenda in the Post-COVID World</p> <p><i>Thematic Question: The role of parliamentary networks is increasing on a global scale. Donors have been supporting such networks, encouraging effective and productive partnership for the benefit of our societies. AFPPD and APDA are also among those networks and their activities have been generously supported by the Government of Japan through the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), aiming to strengthen regional cooperation as well as the inter-regional South-South partnership among parliamentarians and National Committees in Africa, the Arab region and Asia to address population issues. It is vital to define how they relate to one another as networks. How can parliamentarians create effective legislation and global partnerships to address the ICPD25 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensure the safety of society by improving global governance and risk management in the post-COVID era?</i></p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>➤ Hon. Fredrick Outa, Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs of Kenya, Vice-President of FPA</p> <p>Facilitator</p> <p>➤ Dr. Ikegami Kiyoko, Executive Director/Secretary General of APDA</p> <p>Presentation (10 minutes each)</p> <p>➤ Hon. Suematsu Yoshinori, MP Japan ➤ Hon. Pemmy Majodina, MP Republic of South Africa ➤ Hon. Florian Bodog, Senator Romania ➤ Hon. Dr. Souhail Alouini, Tunisia, Chair of East Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum for health and wellbeing</p> <p>Discussion and Chair's wrap-up (65 minutes)</p>
11:15 – 11:45	<p>Session 6: Adoption of Parliamentarians' Declaration</p> <p>Chair: Hon. Professor Takemi Keizo, Chair of AFPPD, Chair of the Drafting Committee</p>
11:45 – 12:15	Coffee Break
12.15 – 12.45	<p>Closing Session</p> <p>MC: Hon. Kikawada Hitoshi, MP Japan, Secretary General of JPFP</p> <p>➤ Dr Alvaro Bermejo, Director-General of IPPF [7 mins] ➤ Hon. Lia Quartapelle Procopio, MP Italy (video) [7 mins] ➤ H.E. Kato Katsunobu, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan [7 mins] ➤ Hon. Professor Takemi Keizo, MP Japan, Chair of AFPPD [7 mins]</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch (Multipurpose Room, 1F, The 1st Members' Office Building of the HoR)
14.00 –	Return to hotel and free time
Thursday 27 April	
	Participants Departure

ATTENDANCE

Members of Parliament: In-person				
1	Hon. Ms.	Aroma Dutta	Bangladesh	MP
2	Hon. Mr.	Mr. Samdrup R. Wangchuk	Bhutan	MP
3	Hon. Ms.	Lork Kheng	Cambodia	MP, Treasurer of AFPPD
4	Hon. Mr.	Issa Mardo	Chad	MP
5	Hon. Mr.	Hassan Omar	Djibouti	MP
6	Hon. Mr.	Abdelhady El-Kasbey	Egypt	MP
7	Hon. Mr.	Deepender Hooda	India	MP, Vice Chair of AFPPD
8	Hon. Dr.	Rouhollah Motefakker Azad	Iran	MP
9	Hon. Mr.	Emanuel Melkiades Luka Lena	Indonesia	MP
10	H.E. Mr.	Kishida Fumio	Japan	Prime Minister
11	H.E. Mr.	Fukuda Yasuo	Japan	Former Prime Minister Chair of APDA, Honorary Chair of JPFP
12	H.E. Mr.	Hosoda Hiroyuki	Japan	Speaker of the House of Representatives
13	H.E. Mr.	Hayashi Yoshimasa	Japan	Minister for Foreign Affairs
14	Hon. Ms.	Kamikawa Yoko	Japan	MP, Chair of JPFP
15	H.E. Mr.	Kato Katsunobu	Japan	Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare
16	Hon. Mr.	Aisawa Ichiro	Japan	MP, Senior Vice-Chair of JPFP
17	Hon. Mr.	Kikawada Hitoshi,	Japan	MP, Secretary General of JPFP
18	Hon. Ms.	Abe Toshiko,	Japan	MP, Deputy Executive Director of JPFP
19	Hon. Mr.	Suematsu Yoshinori	Japan	MP
20	Hon. Mr.	Miyaji Takuma	Japan	MP
21	Hon. Mr.	Makihara Hideki	Japan	MP
22	Hon. Prof.	Keizo Takemi	Japan	MP, Chair of AFPPD
23	Hon. Mr.	Ito Shintaro	Japan	MP
24	Hon. Mr.	Horiuchi Noriko	Japan	MP
25	Hon. Mr.	Horii Kenji	Japan	MP
26	Hon. Mr.	Tsukada Ichiro	Japan	MP
27	Hon. Ms.	Shimajiri Aiko	Japan	MP
28	Hon. Mr.	Okuno Shinsuke	Japan	MP
29	Hon. Mr.	Yoshida Kumiko	Japan	MP
30	Hon. Ms.	Terata Shizuka	Japan	MP
31	Hon. Ms.	Umemura Mizuho	Japan	MP
32	Hon. Ms.	Kunimitsu Ayano	Japan	MP
33	Hon. Mr.	Fukuda Tatsuo	Japan	MP
34	Hon. Mr.	Shindo Kanehiko	Japan	MP
35	Hon. Mr.	Nishimura Akihiro	Japan	MP, Minister of Environment
36	Hon. Ms.	Abe Tomoko	Japan	MP
37	Hon. Ms.	Minorikawa Nobuhide	Japan	MP
38	Hon. Dr.	Rida Shibli	Jordan	MP
39	Hon.	Fredrick Outa	Kenya	MP, Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs; Vice-President of FPA
40	Hon. Ms.	Azygaliev Nurlanbek	Kyrgyzstan	Deputy Speaker
41	Hon. Ms.	Elvira Surabaldiyeva	Kyrgyzstan	MP
42	Hon. Ms.	Thoummaly Vongphachanhi	Lao PDR	MP
43	Hon. Mr.	Mayfong Mayxay	Lao PDR	MP
44	Hon. Mr.	Ahmed Abdulla	Maldives	MP

45	Hon. Mr.	Dashdondog Ganbat	Mongolia	MP
46	Hon. Ms.	Angela Warren-Clark	New Zealand	MP, Co-chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
47	Hon. Ms.	Risa Hontiveros	Philippines	MP
48	Hon. Ms.	Kwon In- sook	Republic of Korea	MP
49	Hon. Ms.	Hwangbo Seung-hee	Republic of Korea	MP
50	Hon. Ms.	Pemmy Majodina	Republic of South Africa	MP, FPA ExCom member
51	Hon. Mr.	Florian Bodog	Romania	MP
52	Hon. Mr.	Hector Appuhamy	Sri Lanka	MP
53	Hon. Ms.	Dilrabo Mansuri	Tajikistan	Deputy Speake; AFPPD Co-chair of Standing Committee on Investing in Youth
54	Hon. Ms.	Mirzozoda Mavluda	Tajikistan	MP
55	Hon. Mr.	Sebastian Kapufi	Tanzania	MP, Chair of TPAPD
56	Hon. Dr.	Jetn Sirathranont	Thailand	MP, AFPPD Secretary General of AFPPD
57	Hon. Mr.	Lord Tu'ivakano	Tonga	MP; AFPPD Executive Committee Member
58	Hon. Dr.	Souhail Alouini	Tunisia	Chair of East Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum for health and wellbeing
59	Hon. Ms.	Elizabeth Barker	United Kingdom	Baroness
60	Hon. Mr.	Nguyen Hoang Mai	Vietnam	MP; AFPPD Executive Committee Member
Members of Parliament: Online				
61	Hon. Ms.	Khadija Elham	Afghanistan	Former MP
62	Hon. Prof. Dr.	Md. Habibe Millat	Bangladesh	MP
63	Hon.	Mr. Nahim Razzaq	Bangladesh	MP
64	Hon. Ms.	Nahid Ijhar Khan	Bangladesh	MP
65	Hon. Ms.	Sayed Rubina Akter	Bangladesh	MP
66	Hon.	Li Bin	China	MP; Member of the ESCPHC
67	Hon. Mr.	Ashraf Hatem	Egypt	MP
68	Hon. Ms.	Lia Quartapelle Procopio	Italy	MP
69	Hon. Dr.	Perpetua S. Konman	Micronesia	MP
70	Hon. Ms.	Sukaina Lahmouch	Morocco	MP
71	Hon.	Dil Kumari Rawal Thapa 'Parbati'	Nepal	MP, NFPPD Chair
72	Hon.	Sekhar Kumar Singh	Nepal	MP
73	Hon.	Leota Laki Lamositele	Samoa	MP, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development; and Ministry for the Samoa Bureau of Statistics
74	Hon. Dr.	Saia Piukala	Tonga	MP, Minister of Health
75	Hon. Dr.	Áisake Eke	Tonga	MP
Resource Persons and Facilitators				
76	Mr.	Nakayama George	Japan	Chair, Committee on Responsible Business Conduct & SDGs Promotion, Keidanren-Japan Business Federation, and Senior Advisor and Former President and CEO, Daiichi Sankyo Co., Ltd.
77	Dr.	Koike Toshio	Japan	Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo; Executive Director of International Center for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) Public Works Research Institute (PWRI), Japan
78	Mr.	Pedro Conceição		Director of the Human Development Report Office, UNDP
79	Dr.	Roopa Dhatt		Executive Director , Women in Global Health
80	Ms.	Nakayama Maho	Japan	Director of Peacebuilding Program, Sasakawa Peace Foundation
81	Ms.	Minamida Yasuko	Japan	Group leader, Aging Group, International Affairs Committee (Global Health Committee), Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA)
82	Dr.	Ochiai Leon		Head of Public Affairs, Sanofi Japan

83	Mr.	Stephen Omollo		Chief Executive Officer of Plan International
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan				
84	Mr.	Hara Keiichi	Japan	Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation Bureau
85	Mr.	Ezoe Satoshi	Japan	Director, Global Health Strategy Division
86	Ms.	Ichino Satomi	Japan	Assistant Director, Global Health Strategy Division
87	Ms.	Aizawa Ayaka	Japan	Press Division Officer
88	Mr.	Ueno Yohei	Japan	Assistant Director, Global Health Strategy Division
Cabinet Office, Government of Japan				
89	Mr.	Matsuzaki Toyokazu	Japan	Cabinet Public Relations (Video)
90	Mr.	Maruyama Hironori	Japan	Cabinet Secretariat, Cabinet Public Relations Office, Chief of the Prime Minister's Official Residence Photo Office
UNFPA				
91	Mr.	Ian McFarlen	Online	Director, DCS
92	Mr.	Klaus Beck		UNFPA Deputy Regional Director A.I.
93	Ms.	Narita Eiko		UNFPA Director, Tokyo Office
94	Ms.	Ueno Fuyo		Assistant Director, Tokyo Office
95	Dr.	Mori Rintaro		Regional Adviser (Population Ageing and Sustainable Development)
96	Ms.	Khondker Zakiur Rahman	Online	UNFPA Bangladesh
97	Ms.	Evelyn Adolph	Online	UNFPA Country Office
98	Ms.	Elisi Tupou	Online	UNFPA Tonga
99	Ms.	Samir Raj Ghimire	Online	UNFPA Nepal
Regional Partners				
100	Ms.	Hasegawa Tomoko	Japan	Managing Director, Keidanren-Japan Business Federation
101	Dr.	Alvaro Bermejo	Malaysia	IPPF Director-General
102	Ms.	Taniguchi Yuri	Malaysia	IPPF Chief, Strategic Partnerships and Development
103	Ms.	Fukuda Tomoko	Malaysia	IPPF Regional Director, ESEAOR
Cooperating/participating Organizations and Private Sector				
104	H.E. Mr.	Peiman Seadat		Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Islamic Republic of Iran to Japan
105	Mr.	Hossein Javaherian		First Secretary, Embassy of Iran in Japan
106	Mr.	Nihei Naoki		Strategic Partnership and Resource Mobilization Advisor Representation Office in Tokyo, UNDP
107	Ms.	Ishii Sumie		Chair of JOICFP
108	Ms.	Katsube Mayumi		Executive Director of JOICFP
109	Ms.	Kamiya Asami		Advocacy Director of JOICFP
110	Ms.	Nagashima Miki		Leader of Advocacy Group of Plan International Japan
111	Ms.	Okamoto Masako		Senior Government Affairs Manager, Sanofi K.K
112	Mr.	Kijima Ryosuke		Manage Public Affairs, Sanofi K.K.
113	Ms.	Nakata Yoko		Head of Vaccine Public Affairs, Sanofi K.K
114	Mr.	Uehara Tsutomu		Senior Director of Sustainability Promotion Department, Daiichi Sankyo Company Limited
115	Mr.	Hirota Takuji		Sustainability Promotion Department, Daiichi Sankyo Company Limited
116	Ms.	Minamida Yasuko		Eisai Co., Ltd.
Online Observers				

117	Mr.	Kuwabara Takeo		Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University, Scholar of French Literature, Critic
118	Ms.	Cecilia Russell		Inter-Press Service (IPS)
119	Ms.	Olivia Bera		
120	Ms.	Ram Guragain	Nepal	NFPPD Nepal
121	Ms.	Cristine Dilla	Philippines	Kalambuan Youth Organization
122	Mr.	Vinay Dahiya		
123	Mr.	Sanjaa. B	Mongolia	YPEER Mongolia
124	Mr.	Khondker Zakiur Rahman		
125	Ms.	Lhawang Dema		
126	Mr.	Mansoor Niazy		
127	Mr.	Nomin Gerelbat YPEERAP		YPEERAP
128	Mr.	Sangeet Kayastha		YPEERAP
129	Mr.	Ganesh Poudel		
APDA Board of Councilors				
130	Mr.	Mr. Ogawa Naohiro	Online	Member of the Board of the Councilor Professor Emeritus, Nihon University Specially Appointed Professor, Graduate School of Economics, University of Tokyo Specially Appointed Professor, Faculty of Economics and Public Administration, University of Malaya
131	Ms.	Miyoshi Mari	Online	Member of the Board of the Councilor; Former ambassador of Ireland
Observers				
132	Dr.	Hanna Yoon		APDA Strategy & Communication Consultant; WeGO Advisory Board Member, The World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO); Policy Advisory Committee, Korean national council of Women Board Member, NPO Multi Culture Network; Senior Researcher, Keio Research Institute, SFC, Japan
133	Mr.	Dr. Suk Won Lee		Executive Director of the Center for International Development Evaluation (CIDE), Seoul National University, Korea
134	Ms.	Jung Sook Park		Secretary General, World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGo), Korea
135	Mr.	Oshiro Souta		
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137	Mr.	Dongrim Lee		
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139	Mr.	Hyeonmin Hong		
140	Ms.	Yena Park		
141	Mr.	Kano Mitsunobu		Deputy Director of Okayama University Member of Science Council of Japan Executive Director of Honda Foundation
APDA Secretariat				
142	Prof.	Ikegami Kiyoko	Japan	APDA Executive Director/Secretary-General
143	Ms.	Tsunekawa Hitomi	Japan	APDA Manager of International Affairs
144	Ms.	Haga Yukika	Japan	APDA Secretariat
145	Ms.	Ms. Osada Eri	Japan	APDA Secretariat
146	Ms.	Nishida Ryoko	Japan	Consultant
147	Ms.	Sugawara Joji	Japan	Consultant
148	Ms.	Hatakeyama Yukari	Japan	Consultant
149	Ms.	Suzuki Yuri	Japan	Consultant
150	Ms.	Hanabusa Yuki	Japan	Consultant
151	Ms.	Fuke Mio	Japan	Consultant
AFPPD Secretariat				
152	Dr.	Farrukh Usmonov	Japan	Executive Director AI

Interpreters				
153	Mr.	Hirano Ryo		
154	Ms.	Ota Haruko		
155	Ms.	Konuma Junko		
Photographers and Videographers				
156	Mr.	Miyakawa Yoichiro		
157	Mr.	Sasaki Takanori		
158	Ms.	Ueno Reiko		
159	Mr.	Tsukuda Ryusei		
160	Ms.	Tagawa Yoko		
161	Mr.	Mitani Daichi		
162	Mr.	Kayaba Yuta		