- **Parliamentarians must use their legislative authority to protect the rights of women and girls and remove barriers to SRHR, while using their budgetary powers to ensure that those rights are supported by sufficient and sustained public resources.**
- **Parliamentarians must strengthen evidence-based oversight by moving beyond asking what governments have promised to examining what has actually been financed, implemented and delivered.**
- **Parliamentarians must protect progress already achieved in SRHR and gender equality,** particularly where conflict, displacement, economic insecurity and anti-rights pressures threaten to reverse established gains.
- **Parliamentarians should create meaningful and sustained avenues for young people to participate in democratic and parliamentary processes,** ensuring that youth participation moves beyond consultation towards genuine engagement.
- **AFPPD parliamentarians must strengthen regional solidarity and mutual accountability,** learning from one another and returning to future regional meetings prepared to demonstrate concrete results achieved at national level.

Conclusion

Hon. Lork Kheng's intervention reinforced the principle that parliamentary commitments acquire meaning only when they result in tangible improvements in people's lives. Cambodia's experience demonstrated how sustained political leadership, public investment, health-system strengthening, community engagement and regional parliamentary cooperation can collectively contribute to measurable progress in health and rights.

Her central message was one of **delivery and accountability.** The Melbourne Parliamentary Call to Action should not remain an expression of regional aspiration; it should be translated into national laws, budgets, programmes and oversight. Parliamentarians should ultimately be accountable not simply for commitments made, but for the concrete results those commitments produce for women, girls, young people and communities.

"We talked, we took it home, and we delivered."
— Hon. Lork Kheng



Hon. Carina Garland

Member of Parliament, Australia; Chair, Australian Parliamentary Friends of Population and Development
Statement presented by Ms. Megan Connor [online]

Hon. Garland emphasized that it was an honor to attend the Women Deliver conference in Melbourne and represent the Australian Parliamentary Friends of Population and Development.

She stated that the Parliamentary Forum event was a true highlight of the overall conference, and both amplified the voices and perspectives of individual nations as well as demonstrating the importance of working together as a global community to deliver outcomes for women and children.

Whilst the challenges seem overwhelming – climate change, the withdrawal of aid funding and a cultural shift that sees women's and girl's rights recede – the opportunity to work together to ensure that human rights are defended is very clear.

Intersectionality must be considered in any approach: it is fundamental to all the work we do.

It is significant that there are so many leaders in the Asia-Pacific region (and across the world) who are determined to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights. We must continue to work together, to share success stories, to share challenges and to work on solutions so that we are able to achieve sustainable development outcomes and protect the rights and health of all.

She continued by stating that we need to seek opportunities to build on the ICPD Programme of Action and to reinforce commitments to ensure implementation. Australia stands ready to work with all MPs in the region to do this important work.

"We must continue to work together to share success stories, to share challenges, and to work on solutions."
— Hon. Carina Garland



Hon. Howard Lee Chuan How

Member of Parliament, Malaysia; Secretary-General, AFPPD

Focus: Implementation and Accountability

Executive Summary

Hon. Howard Lee shifted the discussion from reaffirming principles to assessing what had happened since Melbourne and what implementation should now look like. He distilled the Melbourne Call to Action into four interconnected pillars: bodily autonomy and rights; universal health coverage and financing; digital, climate and crisis resilience; and parliamentary accountability and oversight. He warned that rights should never be assumed to be permanently secured, because established protections can be progressively weakened through legislation, institutional change and shifts in political and public discourse.

He used international and regional examples to illustrate both regression and implementation. Humanitarian crises, he argued, demonstrate why maternal health, reproductive health, nutrition, contraception and protection from gender-based violence must be embedded in emergency preparedness. Conversely, developments in the Philippines showed how commitments become meaningful when they appear in health-benefit packages, budgets and services, while cooperation between the Parliament of Sri Lanka and UNFPA illustrated how demographic evidence can be integrated into legislation, oversight and policymaking.

His central proposition was that demographic resilience is inherently cross-sectoral because decisions on health care, pensions, employment, childcare and ageing ultimately pass through legislation and public expenditure. He concluded by positioning AFPPD's institutional evolution towards implementation as a higher standard of accountability: success should increasingly be measured by whether parliamentary cooperation produces stronger laws, adequate budgets, improved oversight and outcomes that people can experience in their daily lives.

Key Messages

Hon. Howard's four-pillar framework provided a practical lens for assessing post-Melbourne progress. He stressed that rights and established norms can be gradually eroded and therefore require continuous parliamentary vigilance. Humanitarian emergencies expose the fragility of health and protection systems, making continuity of maternal and reproductive health services an essential component of resilience. Financing was presented as one of the clearest tests of implementation: declarations become meaningful when commitments are visible in budgets, insurance benefits, programs and services. He also stressed that demographic resilience cannot be confined to a single ministry and that AFPPD's transition towards implementation should be judged increasingly by measurable national results rather than declarations alone.

Policies

- **Operationalize the Melbourne commitments through four interconnected pillars.** Structure implementation around: (i) bodily autonomy and rights; (ii) universal health coverage and financing; (iii) digital, climate and crisis resilience; and (iv) parliamentary accountability and oversight.
- **Establish parliamentary safeguards against the erosion of rights.** Maintain continuous legislative and institutional scrutiny to identify policy or legal changes that may progressively weaken women's rights, bodily autonomy or access to reproductive health care.
- **Embed SRHR within humanitarian and emergency preparedness.** Ensure that maternal health care, safe delivery, nutrition, contraception and protection from gender-based violence remain integral components of preparedness and response during conflict, displacement, disasters and other emergencies.
- **Institutionalize commitments through sustainable financing.** Translate declarations into national budget allocations, health-benefit packages, programs and services, with adequate resources for reproductive and maternal health and the institutions responsible for delivering essential services.
- **Integrate demographic evidence into parliamentary decision-making.** Systematically incorporate demographic intelligence into legislation, budgeting, oversight and policy development across health care, employment, pensions, childcare and ageing.
- **Treat demographic resilience as a cross-sectoral governance responsibility.** Avoid confining population and demographic issues to a single ministry or agency; instead, integrate them across legislative and public-expenditure decisions.
- **Strengthen national parliamentary implementation mechanisms.** Reactivate and reinforce national parliamentary councils and committees that have become less active so that regional commitments have effective national structures for follow-up and implementation.
- **Adopt proportionate digital safeguards for children.** Protect beneficial access to digital information while strengthening safeguards against online exploitation and abuse and requiring appropriate responsibility from digital platforms, including consideration of age-verification mechanisms.
- **Shift AFPPD towards results-based implementation and accountability.** Assess the effectiveness of parliamentary cooperation increasingly through its contribution to national laws, budgets, oversight and implementation rather than primarily through declarations and meetings.

Recommendations

Parliaments should establish a systematic implementation framework for monitoring national progress against the Melbourne commitments, using the four pillars as a practical basis for reviewing legislation, public financing, institutional arrangements and outcomes. Such a framework would enable parliamentarians to identify gaps between commitments made and implementation achieved.

Legislative oversight should include continuous monitoring for the gradual erosion of established rights. Hon. Howard's intervention stressed that regression does not necessarily occur through a single dramatic change; rights can be weakened incrementally through legislation, institutions and changing political or social norms. Parliamentary vigilance should therefore remain active even where protections appear firmly established.

National humanitarian and disaster-preparedness systems should explicitly guarantee continuity of maternal and reproductive health services. Appropriate financing, resilient service-delivery arrangements and coordination among health, humanitarian and protection actors should be established before crises occur rather than improvised after essential services have been disrupted.

Demographic evidence should also be mainstreamed across parliamentary decision-making. The cooperation between the Parliament of Sri Lanka and UNFPA was highlighted as an example of strengthening the use of demographic evidence in legislation, oversight and policymaking. Because demographic change affects health care, pensions, employment, childcare and ageing, parliamentarians should treat demographic resilience as a whole-of-parliament concern.

At institutional level, AFPPD should strengthen and, where necessary, reactivate national parliamentary councils and committees so that regional commitments are supported by functioning national implementation mechanisms. As AFPPD moves further from advocacy towards implementation, its effectiveness should increasingly be assessed through demonstrable influence on legislation, financing, parliamentary oversight and outcomes.

Calls for Action

Hon. Howard called on parliamentarians to:

- **Parliamentarians must remain vigilant in defending rights already achieved.** No legislature should assume that existing protections are permanently secure; parliamentarians must actively scrutinize laws, institutions and policy developments capable of progressively weakening those rights.
- **Parliamentarians must ensure that maternal health and SRHR services do not stop when crises begin.** They should require safe delivery, maternal health care, nutrition, contraception and protection from gender-based violence to be incorporated into humanitarian and emergency-preparedness frameworks.
- **Parliamentarians must use their budgetary authority to turn commitments into funded services,** securing adequate and sustainable resources for maternal and reproductive health and for institutions such as UNFPA that support essential service delivery.
- **Parliamentarians must insist that demographic evidence informs legislation, budgets and oversight across sectors,** particularly in decisions affecting health care, pensions, employment, childcare and ageing.
- **AFPPD parliamentarians must reactivate and strengthen national parliamentary councils and committees,** ensuring that regional commitments have effective national mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and accountability.
- **Parliamentarians must engage beyond parliamentary chambers and contribute constructively to public discourse,** recognizing that social and political narratives can either reinforce established rights or contribute to their erosion.
- **Parliamentarians must change the measure of success from declarations to delivery.** The ultimate test should be whether parliamentary action converts concerns into laws, laws into budgets, budgets into outcomes and outcomes into further action that improves people's daily lives.

Conclusion

Hon. Howard Lee's intervention provided a clear **implementation and accountability framework for the post-Melbourne agenda.** His central argument was that neither continued progress nor regression should be regarded as inevitable. Rights, services and institutional gains depend on decisions made by legislatures, governments and other public institutions, giving parliamentarians both significant authority and continuing responsibility.

The examples he highlighted demonstrated two sides of the implementation challenge: humanitarian and political developments can rapidly undermine established rights and access to essential services, while deliberate parliamentary and governmental action can institutionalize progress through legislation, health benefits, public financing and stronger use of demographic evidence.

His concluding message therefore shifted the benchmark for AFPPD and its parliamentary network from commitment to implementation, and from declaration to measurable accountability. Success

should ultimately be demonstrated through stronger laws, adequately financed policies, effective oversight and tangible outcomes experienced by people and communities.

"Our task now is to turn concerns into laws, law into budgets, budgets into outcomes, outcomes into action."

— Hon. Howard Lee Chuan How

Chair's / Overall Session Conclusion

Session 5 demonstrated that the central post-Melbourne challenge is no longer the articulation of commitments, but their translation into national action. Across the interventions, a consistent message emerged: declarations and Calls to Action acquire value when they influence legislation, budgets, programs, oversight and services. The speakers also underscored that gains in gender equality and SRHR cannot be assumed to be permanent; conflict, humanitarian crises, economic insecurity, digital risks and changing political or social narratives can expose or deepen vulnerabilities.

The discussion identified complementary dimensions of implementation. Hon. Lork Kheng emphasized sustained political commitment, gender-responsive financing, community engagement, meaningful youth participation and parliamentary solidarity. The Australian intervention emphasized evidence-based policymaking, intersectionality, practical national investment and regional cooperation. Hon. Howard Lee placed particular emphasis on parliamentary vigilance, resilient financing and services, demographic evidence, cross-sectoral governance and institutional accountability.

The overall direction was therefore clear: protect rights, finance commitments, institutionalise implementation, strengthen parliamentary oversight, engage communities, reinforce national parliamentary mechanisms and sustain regional cooperation. The principal measure of success should be whether these commitments lead to stronger laws, adequately financed policies, accountable institutions and tangible improvements for women, girls, young people and communities. Dr Usmonov Farrukh closed the session by thanking the speakers and participants for their interventions and bringing the discussion to a close due to time constraints.

Q&A / Open Forum

Conflict, Humanitarian Crises and the Protection of Women and Children

Intervention — Hon. Sibghatullah, MP Pakistan: A representative from Pakistan welcomed Hon. Howard Lee Chuan How's reflections on conflict and humanitarian crises and emphasized that women and children often bear the heaviest consequences when conflict persists. The intervention highlighted the loss of health services, safety and the ordinary conditions necessary for daily life, and stressed that these humanitarian consequences are integral—not peripheral—to the population and development agenda.

Session response: Hon. Howard's broader intervention had emphasized that humanitarian emergencies directly affect demographic resilience and SRHR, and that pregnancy, childbirth and protection needs continue during war, displacement and disaster. The discussion therefore reinforced the need to maintain maternal health, nutrition, reproductive health and protection services as part of emergency planning.

Balancing Children's Right to Information with Protection from Online Harm

Question 1 — Ms. Ermalena M. Hasbullah, IFPPD Secretary asked Hon. Howard how governments should reconcile restrictions on children's social-media access with children's right to information, referring to policy measures being considered or introduced in countries including Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia.

Response — Hon. Howard Lee Chuan How: He described the issue as a difficult balance because development policy, child-protection policy and technology policy are increasingly interconnected. Digital platforms can provide children with valuable access to learning and information, while also exposing them to exploitation and abuse. He argued that the policy choice should not be framed simply as unrestricted access versus a complete ban. Instead, governments should pursue proportionate safeguards that preserve beneficial access while strengthening protection. Referring to Malaysia, he highlighted efforts to place greater responsibility on social-media platforms, including age-verification mechanisms, as an example of a context-specific approach to balancing access and protection.

Cambodia's HIV Response: Community Outreach and Connecting People to Services

Question 2 — A second participant from Indonesia asked Hon. Lork Kheng to elaborate on Cambodia's HIV response, particularly the role of parliament and community-based mechanisms in helping the country achieve the progress she had described. The participant noted that HIV/AIDS remains a serious challenge in Indonesia and sought lessons from Cambodia's experience.

Response — Hon. Lork Kheng: She explained that community outreach was an important component of Cambodia's HIV response and highlighted the Cambodian Red Cross, which incorporated HIV into its strategy and mobilised its extensive volunteer network across the country, including rural areas. Volunteers supported awareness campaigns, helped identify people who might require HIV services and connected them with health centres and hospitals for testing, treatment and medication. She also referred to nationwide campaigning and cooperation between government and community-based structures. Her response illustrated the importance of combining government commitment and formal health programmes with trusted community networks capable of reaching populations that may otherwise be difficult for public services to access.



Session 6: Country Reports

Session Objective: Each member state, according to its respective sub-regional affiliation, will be invited to present reports on how its national committee has been advancing AFPPD's four strategic pillars: gender equality and women's empowerment, investing in youth, climate change and active ageing. Chair of each session shall make conclusion statement after end of each sub-session.

Sub-Session 6.1: Report by East and South East Asian states East and South-East Asian States





Chair/Moderator: Hon. Deepender Hooda

MP, India, Vice-Chair of AFPPD

Session Context

Session 6.1 provided a platform for AFPPD member countries to report on national progress, policy responses and emerging priorities related to the Forum's four strategic pillars: **gender equality and women's empowerment, investing in youth, climate change, and active ageing.** The session brought together countries facing markedly different demographic realities, illustrating the need for national responses while also highlighting opportunities for regional learning and parliamentary cooperation.

In opening the sub-session, the Chair introduced the country representatives: **Prof. Keizo Takemi, Chair of APDA and former Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan; Hon. Kim Nam-hee, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea; Hon. Dr Anara Naeem, Member of Parliament of the Maldives; and Hon. Hector Appuhamy, Member of Parliament of Sri Lanka.** The presentations respectively addressed Japan's rapidly ageing society, Korea's gender equality and demographic challenges, Maldives' legislative and community-based approaches to demographic resilience, and Sri Lanka's parliamentary response to climate risk. The speaker identities and roles are also consolidated in the complementary report.

The Chair framed the discussion around the sharp demographic contrast between East and South Asia. He characterized East Asia as facing contracting populations, very low fertility and high old-age dependency, while South Asia continues to have a large and comparatively young population. Despite these differences, he emphasized that AFPPD's four pillars represent **"borderless challenges and borderless solutions",** requiring countries to learn from one another while tailoring responses to their own national circumstances.

Executive Summary

Hon. Deepender Hooda positioned the country-reporting session as an opportunity to examine how different demographic circumstances require different forms of parliamentary leadership. East Asia's experience demonstrated the consequences of rapid ageing, shrinking workforces and changing household structures, while South Asia presented a contrasting picture of large youth populations and the challenge of translating this demographic potential into education, employment, meaningful participation and sustainable development.

The Chair's framing underscored that demographic resilience cannot be pursued through a single regional model. Instead, parliamentarians need to respond to their respective demographic realities while using AFPPD as a platform for policy exchange, shared learning and cross-border cooperation.

Key Messages

- **Demographic transitions require differentiated national responses.** Ageing, low fertility, youth bulges, gender inequality and climate vulnerability interact differently across countries.
- **AFPPD's four strategic pillars are interconnected.** Gender equality, youth investment, climate resilience and active ageing cannot be addressed effectively in isolation.
- **Parliamentary leadership is central** to translating demographic evidence into legislation, budgets, oversight and sustainable public policy.
- **Regional exchange should move beyond sharing experiences towards transferring practical policy lessons,** particularly where countries are at different stages of demographic transition.
- **Young people must increasingly participate in shaping policies affecting their future,** rather than remaining only recipients of policies designed for them.

Speaker Proceedings



Prof. Keizo Takemi

Chair of APDA; Former Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan

Primary AFPPD Pillar: Active Ageing

Executive Summary

Prof. Keizo Takemi presented Japan's experience as an early warning of the profound social consequences associated with rapid population ageing. Nearly 30% of Japan's population is already aged 65 or above, while the working-age population is declining substantially. He highlighted an important shift in the geography and social character of ageing: Japan's next stage of population ageing is increasingly concentrated in major urban areas and accompanied by rising numbers of single-person households.

His central concern was not ageing alone, but **ageing combined with social isolation.** Older people living alone in urban apartments may have limited interaction with neighbors, family or community networks, creating risks of unattended illness and socially isolated deaths. He characterized this as fundamentally a question of human dignity.

Against shrinking care workforces, Prof. Takemi proposed greater use of digital health-monitoring technologies, supported by an integrated national information infrastructure. He stressed, however, that technology cannot operate as fragmented commercial systems: government leadership is required to connect devices, health information, medical providers, care facilities and community services.

Key Messages

Japan's experience demonstrates that longevity must be accompanied by policies that preserve **dignity, connection, health and independence.** Urban ageing requires particular attention because traditional family-based care systems become less effective as more older people live alone.

Digitalization offers important opportunities to complement declining care workforces, but technology must be integrated into wider health and community-care systems. The future of long-term care therefore requires cooperation among government, local authorities, healthcare providers, communities and the private sector.

Policies

- **Integrated digital monitoring for older persons:** Develop interoperable monitoring systems linking smart household technologies, wearable devices and other health-monitoring tools with healthcare and long-term-care services.
- **Government-led digital integration:** Establish a common national platform capable of connecting privately developed monitoring technologies with health information systems rather than allowing isolated proprietary systems to operate independently.
- **AI-enabled early intervention:** Use integrated health information to identify abnormal health indicators and enable timely referral to healthcare professionals and elderly-care services.
- **Individual-centred community care:** Adapt community-based health and welfare systems from traditional family-unit models towards services capable of reaching older persons living alone.
- **Community reconnection:** Strengthen local initiatives that encourage residents of urban apartment complexes to interact and rebuild neighborhood relationships.
- **Public-private care partnerships:** Harness private-sector innovation alongside public health and social welfare responsibilities to address labor shortages and expand ageing-related services.

Recommendations

Japan's experience suggests that governments should begin preparing for urban ageing **before social isolation becomes entrenched**. National and local authorities should map the changing distribution of older populations, identify concentrations of single-person elderly households and redesign community health and welfare systems accordingly.

Digitalization should supplement rather than replace human care. Governments should therefore establish standards for interoperability, data governance and service coordination so that household technologies can contribute to a coherent care continuum. Regional cooperation through AFPPD could further enable countries at earlier stages of ageing to learn from Japan's experience in community-based long-term care.

Calls for Action

Parliamentarians are urged to:

- **Treat social isolation among older persons as a human dignity and public-policy issue,** and ensure that ageing legislation and budgets address not only healthcare but also social connection and independent living.
- **Promote legislation and financing for integrated community-based long-term care,** particularly in rapidly ageing urban areas.
- **Establish appropriate governance frameworks for digital and AI-enabled eldercare,** ensuring that technology supports accessible, coordinated and person-centred care.
- **Strengthen parliamentary exchange through AFPPD** so that Japan's experience can inform countries approaching similar demographic transitions.

Conclusion

Prof. Takemi's presentation demonstrated that the challenge of a super-ageing society extends beyond pensions and healthcare. It concerns how cities, communities, technology and care systems are organised around increasingly diverse household structures. Japan's experience provides an important regional lesson: **longer lives must be accompanied by systems capable of protecting dignity, independence and human connection.**

"This is a very, very serious humanitarian issue."

—Prof. Keizo Takemi



Hon. Kim Nam-hee

Member of the National Assembly, Republic of Korea

Primary AFPPD Pillars: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; Active Ageing

Executive Summary

Hon. Kim Nam-hee presented gender equality as both a **rights imperative and a demographic policy priority.** Despite improvements in women's educational and economic participation, Korea continues to experience substantial gender disparities in employment and pay, with caregiving-related career interruptions identified as a major contributing factor.

Her presentation connected these labor-market inequalities with wider demographic pressures, including very low fertility and rapid population ageing. She also highlighted emerging threats to women's safety, particularly digital sexual crimes, deepfake-related abuse, dating violence and stalking.

Korea's policy response combines stronger gender-equality governance, employment transparency, protection from gender-based violence, reproductive health measures, pension reform, integrated community care and investment in younger generations.

Key Messages

Gender equality should be understood as integral to demographic resilience rather than as a stand-alone social policy.

Unequal caregiving responsibilities contribute to women's career interruptions, labour-market inequality and wider demographic pressures. Addressing these structural barriers therefore requires employment policy, family policy, care policy and gender equality measures to operate together.

Rapid technological change also requires legal frameworks to evolve so that women are protected against new forms of digital and technology-facilitated violence.

Policies

- **Employment Equality Disclosure System:** Advance legislation requiring specified public institutions, local public enterprises and large private employers to disclose gender-disaggregated employment and pay information.
- **Employer support and incentives:** Provide consulting assistance to employers seeking to improve women's employment opportunities and consider public-procurement incentives encouraging gender-equitable employment practices.
- **Strengthened gender-equality governance:** Reinforce institutional structures responsible for gender equality at national and local levels.
- **Digital sexual violence protection:** Strengthen legal authority to facilitate rapid blocking of illegal sexual content and improve protection for victims of technology-facilitated abuse.
- **Legislation addressing dating violence and stalking:** Strengthen the criminal-law response to emerging forms of violence against women.
- **Sexual and reproductive health and rights:** Continue inter-agency policy work to strengthen women's access to appropriate reproductive healthcare.
- **Pension sustainability:** Continue reform measures responding to the fiscal and social consequences of rapid ageing.
- **Integrated community care:** Enable older persons, persons with disabilities and vulnerable populations to receive health and social care while continuing to live with dignity within their communities.
- **Investment in younger generations:** Support youth employment, housing and asset-building as part of an integrated demographic response.

Recommendations

Korea's experience points to the need for gender-responsive demographic policy that addresses the structural relationship between caregiving, employment and fertility. Employment transparency should therefore be accompanied by measures that reduce career interruptions, expand women's access to quality employment and leadership opportunities, and redistribute care responsibilities more equitably.

Protection against gender-based violence should similarly evolve alongside technology. Legislative frameworks need to respond rapidly to digital sexual abuse and other emerging forms of violence while ensuring accessible support and remedies for victims.

At the same time, ageing policy should preserve older persons' ability to remain within their communities through integrated health and social-care systems rather than relying solely on institutional care.

Calls for Action

Parliamentarians are urged to:

- **Use legislation, budget scrutiny and oversight to close persistent gender gaps in employment and pay,** including through greater transparency and accountability.
- **Remove structural barriers that interrupt women's careers,** particularly unequal caregiving responsibilities.
- **Modernize legislation against technology-facilitated and gender-based violence** so that legal protection keeps pace with emerging forms of abuse.

- **Integrate gender equality into national demographic strategies,** recognising its relationship with fertility, workforce participation and family wellbeing.
- **Invest simultaneously in younger and older generations,** ensuring that demographic policy strengthens intergenerational resilience rather than treating ageing and youth policy separately.

Conclusion

Hon. Kim demonstrated that Korea's demographic challenges cannot be separated from gender equality. Sustainable responses to low fertility, workforce pressures and rapid ageing require women to have equal opportunities to participate in economic and public life while being protected from discrimination and violence.

"Advancing gender equality is not only a matter of women's rights, but also an essential part of our response to demographic change."

—Hon. Kim Nam-hee



Hon. Dr Anara Naeem

Member of Parliament, Maldives; Parliamentary Group on Population and Development AFPPD

Pillars: Gender Equality, Investing in Youth, Climate Change and Active Ageing

Executive Summary

Hon. Dr Anara Naeem presented a multidimensional approach that connects legislation, institutional reform and grassroots empowerment. She emphasized that Maldives is translating the ICPD agenda into practical action through laws supporting women, families and older persons, efforts to strengthen women's and youth representation, and community programs building skills and resilience.

She highlighted three legislative developments concerning Women's Development Committees, continued economic participation of older government employees, and employment protections allowing parents time to care for very young children.

The presentation also described efforts to strengthen women's and youth representation and community empowerment initiatives incorporating AI literacy, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, health advocacy, positive parenting and conflict resolution.

Key Messages

Demographic resilience requires action at legislative, institutional, community and household levels.

Women and young people must have meaningful representation in political decision-making rather than remaining beneficiaries of policies developed without their participation.

Healthy ageing, family support, youth opportunity and climate resilience are interconnected, particularly for small island developing states where demographic and environmental vulnerabilities reinforce one another.

Policies

- **Women's Development Committees:** Strengthen their mandate, administrative support, resources and financing across island communities.

- **Active ageing through continued employment:** Enable older public employees to continue contributing their expertise and experience where appropriate.
- **Family-friendly employment protection:** Provide working parents with protected time to attend to young children without salary deductions.
- **Political representation:** Pursue structural measures aimed at increasing women's and youth participation in Parliament.
- **Community empowerment:** Expand practical skills programs covering AI literacy, financial capability, entrepreneurship, health advocacy and family resilience.
- **Healthy ageing and community support:** Develop systems enabling older persons to maintain dignity and independence without placing disproportionate caregiving burdens on younger family members.
- **Climate-resilient development:** Develop dedicated legislative action linking population dynamics, community resilience and climate change.

Recommendations

The Maldives should continue linking national legislation with local implementation so that reforms translate into tangible improvements across geographically dispersed island communities. Political representation reforms should be supported by leadership development and capacity-building programs so that women and young people are equipped not only to enter decision-making institutions but also to participate effectively within them.

Community empowerment initiatives should be progressively expanded to northern and southern atolls, while future demographic policies should integrate healthy ageing, family support and climate resilience as mutually reinforcing priorities.

Calls for Action

Parliamentarians are urged to:

- **Remove structural barriers to the meaningful representation of women and young people in political decision-making.**
- **Translate demographic commitments into enforceable legislation, adequate budgets and locally accessible programs.**
- **Invest in practical empowerment programs that equip women and youth with the skills and confidence to participate economically, socially and politically.**
- **Integrate population dynamics into climate legislation,** particularly in small island states where demographic and environmental resilience are inseparable.
- **Protect intergenerational dignity** by developing care systems that support both older persons and family caregivers.

Conclusion

Hon. Dr Anara presented Maldives as seeking to move progressively **from legislation to structural reform and from structural reform to community empowerment.** The approach recognises that sustainable demographic resilience ultimately depends on whether national policies strengthen individuals, families and communities.

"The voices of women and young people are not optional. They are essential to our legislative architecture."

—Hon. Dr Anara Naeem



Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Title / Organization

Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka

Primary AFPPD Pillar: Climate Change

Executive Summary

Hon. Hector Appuhamy presented Sri Lanka's effort to shift parliamentary climate governance from **reactive disaster response towards anticipatory risk management and resilience.** Climate change was framed not as a distant environmental concern but as an immediate threat to livelihoods, public finances, infrastructure, health and the care economy.

The presentation centred on parliamentary ownership of climate policy, stronger climate-finance mechanisms, systematic climate-risk screening, implementation of the Sendai Framework, and greater consideration of gender, age and disability within national risk monitoring.

He further outlined three legislative pillars: a climate finance framework, carbon and biodiversity credit regulation, and institutional arrangements for managing climate-risk financing.

Key Messages

Climate change must be treated simultaneously as an **environmental, social, demographic and fiscal risk.**

Parliaments have a central role in shifting national systems from responding to disasters after they occur towards identifying, financing and reducing risks beforehand.

Climate vulnerability is unequal. Gender, age, disability, income and location influence exposure and capacity to recover; therefore, adaptation policies and budgets must be informed by disaggregated data.

Women should be recognized as leaders and decision-makers in disaster-risk reduction rather than solely as vulnerable populations.

Policies

- **Climate Finance Framework Law:** Introduce systematic annual tracking of climate expenditure, climate-financing instruments and protected adaptation allocations.
- **Carbon and Biodiversity Credits Bill:** Establish transparent market rules for carbon trading and biodiversity credits while ensuring equitable benefit-sharing with local communities.
- **Climate-risk financing architecture:** Strengthen national institutional capacity to manage climate-risk funds and mobilize international finance.
- **Mandatory climate-risk screening:** Require future public infrastructure projects to undergo climate-risk assessment before investment decisions are approved.
- **Risk-informed national planning:** Embed disaster-risk reduction and climate resilience into national adaptation and development planning.
- **Disaggregated vulnerability data:** Require the collection and use of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated information in national risk monitoring and adaptation planning.

- **Women's leadership in disaster-risk reduction:** Promote women as leaders in preparedness, adaptation and resilience-building.
- **Parliamentary technical capacity:** Strengthen research and technical support so legislators can assess the climate and disaster-risk implications of proposed laws and investments.
- **Community-based environmental protection:** Engage communities in ecosystem protection while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- **Climate education:** Expand environmental and climate education for children and future generations.

Recommendations

Sri Lanka should institutionalize climate-risk governance across parliamentary committees, national planning processes and public investment systems rather than treating climate resilience as a sector-specific environmental issue. Climate-risk screening should become a routine component of infrastructure and budget decisions.

Adaptation financing should be predictable and protected from short-term political changes, while international climate-finance arrangements should reflect the fiscal constraints faced by climate-vulnerable and highly indebted countries.

Risk assessments should systematically use sex-, age-, disability- and income-disaggregated data so that resources reach populations facing the greatest vulnerability. Community participation should also form an integral part of climate adaptation, particularly where ecosystem protection directly affects livelihoods.

Calls for Action

Parliamentarians are urged to:

- **Move national climate governance decisively from disaster response to risk prevention,** embedding resilience in legislation, budgets and development planning.
- **Require climate-risk screening of major public investments and infrastructure projects.**
- **Protect adaptation financing through strong legislative and budgetary safeguards.**
- **Demand disaggregated evidence in climate planning** so that gender, age, disability and socioeconomic vulnerability are reflected in resource allocation.
- **Ensure women and affected communities participate as leaders in climate governance,** rather than being treated only as recipients of assistance.
- **Strengthen parliamentary capacity to scrutinize climate finance and risk,** including international financing arrangements.
- **Use regional parliamentary cooperation to advance climate resilience as a shared Asia-Pacific priority.**

Conclusion

Sri Lanka's presentation demonstrated that demographic resilience and climate resilience are increasingly inseparable. Parliament's role extends beyond passing environmental legislation: it must ensure that **budgets, infrastructure, financial systems, adaptation policies and community development are all risk-informed.**

"Climate change is not a future risk. It is our present reality."
—Hon. Hector Appuhamy

Chair's / Overall Session Conclusion

In concluding the session, Hon. Deepender Hooda brought the discussion back to the demographic contrast underpinning the country presentations. While Japan and Korea illustrated the profound implications of ageing and declining fertility, he stressed that South Asia's large youth population presents its own urgent policy challenge.

His central message was that a youth bulge cannot automatically be regarded as a demographic dividend. Its potential depends upon education, skills, employment opportunities and meaningful participation in political and public decision-making. He highlighted concerns among young people regarding economic inequality, corruption, education, employment and their relationship with established political institutions.

The Chair therefore called for a fundamental shift in parliamentary thinking:

"We have to move from the paradigm of politicians and parliamentarians providing policies for the youth to having policies by the youth."

The overall session demonstrated that **demographic resilience has different expressions but a common parliamentary imperative.** Ageing societies require dignified, sustainable and technologically supported care systems; low-fertility societies require gender-responsive employment and family policies; young societies require meaningful investment and participation; and climate-vulnerable societies require anticipatory, inclusive and adequately financed risk governance.

Across all four presentations, a common message emerged: parliamentarians are not merely observers of demographic transition. Through legislation, budgets, oversight, representation and regional cooperation, they have the capacity to shape how societies anticipate and respond to demographic change.

Q&A / OPEN FORUM

Question 1 — Social Isolation and Elderly Care in Japan

Hon. Le Van Kham, MP Vietnam asked why older persons in Japan continued to experience socially isolated deaths despite the country's established nursing-home and elderly-care system.

Response — Prof. Keizo Takemi:

Prof. Takemi explained that high land prices in cities such as Tokyo constrain the expansion of institutional elderly-care facilities. Many older people consequently continue living alone in apartments, often without meaningful relationships with neighbors. He described cases in which deaths remained undiscovered for several days as evidence that ageing must be treated not simply as a healthcare issue but as a challenge to human dignity. He cautioned that similar patterns could eventually emerge in rapidly urbanizing Asian cities.

Question 2 — Government, Community and Parliamentary Responses to Social Isolation

Ms. Ermalena M. Hasbullah, IFPPD Secretary asked what Japan was doing to address social isolation, declining marriage and increasing numbers of people living alone. The participant also asked about the respective responsibilities of government, communities and parliament, and whether the issue should be treated as a broader international challenge.

Response — Prof. Keizo Takemi:

Prof. Takemi acknowledged that Japan had not yet found a fully effective solution. Local governments are encouraging residents of apartment complexes to rebuild community connections through neighborhood activities and social events. At the same time, digital monitoring technologies are being developed to identify health risks among people living alone.

He stressed that the deeper structural change involves redesigning community welfare. Traditional systems were constructed around the family as the basic unit of care, whereas increasing numbers of single-person households require local governments to deliver services directly to individuals. He therefore emphasized the importance of public-private collaboration, with private companies playing an increasingly significant role alongside government.

Question 3 — Women's Economic Participation and Leadership

Another participant raised questions concerning policies that could enable older people, particularly women, to remain economically active and asked how technology and care arrangements could support women's labor-force participation. The participant also asked Korea how its high levels of female education could be translated more effectively into leadership positions and quality paid employment despite persistent labor-market gender gaps.

The transcript captures the question clearly but does not contain a complete substantive response from Hon. Kim Nam-hee. The exchange appears to have been deferred or incompletely recorded. This should therefore not be reconstructed in the final report as though a full response had been provided.

Intervention/Suggestion — Regional Learning on Community-Based Long-Term Care

A participant proposed that AFPPD, in collaboration with Japan and APDA, document and disseminate lessons from Japan's community-based long-term-care experience. The participant suggested that such knowledge could assist Asian countries whose populations are beginning to age by providing practical lessons on active, healthy and dignified ageing.

The Chair welcomed the proposal as a constructive suggestion for future regional cooperation.



Sub-Session 6.2: Report by South East Asian states East and Central Asian States



Chair: Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva

MP, Kyrgyzstan (Vice-Chair, AFPPD)

Session Context

Sub-session 6.2 brought together parliamentary representatives from Southeast Asia and Central Asia to present national experiences across AFPPD's four strategic pillars: gender equality and women's empowerment, investing in youth, climate change, and active ageing. The session highlighted how countries at different stages of demographic transition are responding through legislation, institutional reforms, preventive health systems, social protection measures, and community-centred development.

The session was chaired by **Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva, MP, Kyrgyzstan, who invited four country presenters: Associate Professor Dr. Prudit Tejativaddhan (Expert, Senate of Thailand); Hon. Sri Wulan Sutomo Jasmine (Member of Parliament, Indonesia); Hon. Sheralizoda Muhamadullo (Member of Parliament, Tajikistan); and Hon. Ovekova Janet (Member of Parliament, Turkmenistan).** Each speaker presented national experiences before engaging in an interactive discussion with parliamentarians from Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, and other participating delegations.

Short Executive Summary

Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva framed the sub-session around the sharing of national experiences from Thailand, Indonesia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan across AFPPD's four strategic pillars: gender equality and women's empowerment, investing in youth, climate change, and active ageing.

Throughout the session, she drew together the different country experiences around a common life-course perspective on demographic resilience. Following Thailand's presentation, she highlighted that active ageing does not begin at age 60, but must be built throughout life through prevention, healthy lifestyles and accessible healthcare. Following Indonesia's presentation, she emphasised the importance of addressing demographic resilience across the life course by empowering women, investing in young people, responding to climate risks and preparing for an ageing society, particularly noting the shift from protection towards empowerment.

In concluding the session, the Chair observed that although participating countries are at different stages of demographic transition, their challenges are interconnected. She underscored that demographic resilience cannot be achieved through isolated policies, but requires sustained investment throughout the life course—in women, young people, families and older persons—together with effective responses to climate change. She positioned parliamentarians as central to translating these priorities into legislation, budgets and effective oversight.

Key Messages

- Demographic resilience requires a life-course approach. Policies for women, young people, families and older persons should be understood as interconnected investments rather than separate demographic interventions.
- Active ageing begins well before old age. Prevention, healthy lifestyles and accessible healthcare throughout life are essential to maintaining health, independence and participation in later years.

- Empowerment must accompany protection. Gender-responsive policy should go beyond protecting women and young people from vulnerability by expanding their opportunities, participation and capacity to contribute to society.
- Investment in care and social protection is an investment in demographic and economic resilience. The Chair highlighted Turkmenistan's message that care systems and social protection should not be viewed simply as social expenditure.
- National approaches differ, but the challenges are interconnected. Countries may be at different stages of demographic transition, yet ageing, gender equality, youth development, climate change and social protection increasingly require coordinated policy responses.
- Parliamentary leadership is essential for implementation. Parliamentarians have a responsibility to convert demographic priorities into legislation, budgetary commitments and effective oversight, ensuring that policy commitments lead to practical and sustainable results.

Speaker Proceedings



Associate Professor Dr. Prudit Tejativaddhan

Expert, Committee on Public Health, Senate of Thailand

Executive Summary

Dr. Prudit presented Thailand’s evolving approach to **active ageing through a life-course and prevention-oriented health system**, responding to rapid population ageing and the growing burden of non-communicable diseases. His central argument was that active ageing should not begin when people reach old age, but should be built progressively through healthier behaviors, preventive healthcare, early intervention and preservation of functional capacity throughout life.

He highlighted Thailand’s integration of **Lifestyle Medicine into existing health services**, supported by multidisciplinary workforce development, community participation and a proposed national action plan. Rather than creating a parallel system, the approach seeks to strengthen existing NCD services and connect clinical care with local governments, communities, families, civil society and other partners. He emphasized that prevention must complement—not replace—Universal Health Coverage, social protection, rehabilitation and long-term care. Thailand’s experience therefore demonstrated how health-system reform can contribute to healthier ageing while strengthening broader demographic resilience.

Key Messages

Dr. Prudit’s central message was that **active ageing is the cumulative result of health and well-being built throughout the life course, rather than an intervention that begins when a person reaches old age**. Thailand’s rapid demographic transition and high burden of non-communicable diseases illustrate the close relationship between population ageing, individual health, family responsibilities, workforce participation, the care economy and fiscal sustainability. He therefore presented healthy ageing as a broader demographic resilience issue rather than solely an older persons’ or healthcare concern.

He also stressed that successful ageing requires a shift in perspective—from responding to illness, frailty and dependency after they occur to maintaining health, functional ability and independence for as long as possible. Importantly, he framed this as an **all-of-society endeavour**, in which individuals, families, communities and institutions share responsibility for creating conditions that enable people to remain healthy and active throughout their lives.

Policies

- **Life-course approach to active ageing and NCD prevention:** Reorient the health system from predominantly treating avoidable illness after onset towards prevention, early intervention and sustained health promotion across the life course, recognizing that healthy ageing must be built from youth and working age through pre-ageing and older age.
- **Integration of Lifestyle Medicine into existing health services:** Embed evidence-based Lifestyle Medicine—including nutrition, physical activity, adequate sleep, stress management, avoidance of harmful substances and social connection—within primary care, NCD prevention, clinical care and rehabilitation rather than establishing a separate or parallel healthcare system.
- **Expansion of Lifestyle Medicine-enabled NCD services:** Upgrade existing public hospital and NCD services into multidisciplinary, team-based platforms capable of assessing individual risks, developing shared care plans, providing behavioral coaching and following patients over time.
- **Development of a multi-level preventive health workforce:** Establish a continuum of trained personnel comprising Lifestyle Medicine specialists recognized by the Medical Council of Thailand, multidisciplinary health professionals serving as lifestyle coaches, and basic lifestyle coaches drawn from village health volunteers and citizens.
- **National policy institutionalization:** Advance the proposed National Action Plan for 2028–2032 to provide a coherent national framework linking preventive services, workforce development, financing, research, digital systems and community participation.
- **Community-linked health and rehabilitation systems:** Strengthen connections between health facilities, local governments, communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, families and citizens so that preventive healthcare extends beyond clinical settings and becomes an all-of-society responsibility.
- **Equity-sensitive implementation and financing:** Develop monitoring and financing mechanisms that support effective preventive interventions while safeguarding equitable access, particularly as Thailand's ageing population and NCD burden increase.

Recommendations

Thailand's experience points to the need for health systems to move progressively upstream, addressing preventable disease, frailty and functional decline before they result in dependency and escalating care costs. Preventive approaches should therefore be embedded within—not substituted for—Universal Health Coverage, social protection, rehabilitation and long-term care.

Member countries could adapt Thailand's emerging model according to their own demographic and health contexts through four interconnected areas identified by the speaker: strengthening preventive health services; establishing local demonstration sites linking health services, local governments and communities; developing multidisciplinary and community-level workforces; and creating equity-sensitive monitoring systems. Regional cooperation should facilitate exchange and adaptation rather than promote a one-size-fits-all model.

Calls for Action to Parliamentarians

- **Legislate for prevention across the life course:** Parliamentarians should ensure that national health and ageing frameworks give sufficient legislative weight to prevention, early intervention, healthy lifestyles and preservation of functional capacity—not only treatment and institutional care.
- **Secure sustainable financing:** Parliamentarians should use budgetary authority to ensure predictable financing for preventive health services, workforce development, community-based interventions, rehabilitation and long-term care.

- **Strengthen implementation oversight:** Parliamentarians should scrutinize whether preventive health policies are reaching communities equitably and producing measurable improvements in health, function and independence.
- **Enable community participation:** Parliamentarians should promote policy frameworks that formally connect health services with local governments, community organizations, volunteers, families and civil society.

Conclusion

Thailand's experience demonstrated that **healthy and active ageing is ultimately shaped by decisions and investments made throughout the life course.** By connecting prevention, health promotion and functional capacity with community participation and existing health services, Thailand is reframing ageing from a challenge of managing dependency into an opportunity to extend healthy, independent and productive lives. The presentation reinforced that demographic resilience will depend not only on how societies care for people in later life, but also on how effectively they create the conditions for people to **reach older age in better health and with greater functional independence.**

"Active aging does not begin at the age of 60. It must be built throughout life."
—Dr. Prudit Tejativaddhan



Hon. Sri Wulan Sutomo Jasmine

Member of Parliament, Indonesia

Executive Summary

Hon. Sri Wulan presented Indonesia's demographic priorities through an integrated framework encompassing **gender equality and women's empowerment, youth development, climate resilience and active ageing.** She emphasized that these issues are closely interconnected and require coordinated policy responses across the life course rather than being addressed as separate development challenges.

On gender equality, she highlighted the need to move beyond protecting women towards **empowering them through education, skills, employment, finance, technology and social protection,** while addressing violence, child marriage, unequal economic opportunities and unpaid care responsibilities. For Indonesia's large youth population, she stressed that the demographic dividend depends on adequate investment in education, health, skills and employment. She also identified climate change as a direct threat to population well-being and livelihoods. On ageing, she highlighted efforts to reform the existing legal framework towards **active, healthy and dignified ageing,** supported by stronger social protection, family- and community-based long-term care, integrated services and improved coordination.

Key Messages

Hon. Sri Wulan's presentation conveyed that **Indonesia's demographic opportunities and vulnerabilities are interconnected across generations.** Gender equality, youth development, climate change and population ageing cannot be treated as independent concerns because progress or inaction in one area has consequences for the others. Indonesia's demographic future will therefore depend on its ability to respond to changing population needs while ensuring that people at different stages of life have meaningful opportunities to participate in development.

A particularly important message was the need to shift the understanding of empowerment from **protection alone towards enabling participation and opportunity.** This principle applied especially to women and young people, whose potential to contribute to economic and social

development depends on overcoming structural inequalities and barriers. At the same time, Indonesia's experience showed the importance of preparing for population ageing before demographic pressures intensify, while recognizing climate change as an increasingly significant factor affecting population well-being, livelihoods and long-term resilience.

Policies

- **Transition from protection to women's empowerment:** Strengthen policies that not only protect women from violence, child marriage and discrimination but also expand their substantive access to education, skills, employment, finance, technology, social protection and decision-making.
- **Recognition and reduction of unpaid care burdens:** Expand affordable care services and strengthen the care economy so that disproportionate unpaid care responsibilities do not continue to restrict women's participation in employment, economic activity and public life.
- **Youth-centred demographic dividend strategy:** Invest systematically in education, health, skills development and decent employment to ensure Indonesia's large youth population can translate demographic potential into productivity, innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership.
- **Youth health and inclusion:** Strengthen reproductive health education and youth-friendly services, prevent early and unintended pregnancy, and address unequal opportunities affecting young people's ability to remain in education and transition successfully into employment.
- **Skills-to-employment alignment:** Address youth unemployment and NEET challenges through stronger alignment between education, technical and vocational skills and evolving labour-market demand.
- **Climate-resilient development:** Strengthen the climate policy and legislative framework to address sea-level rise, flooding, extreme weather, food and water security, livelihoods and the disproportionate effects of climate change on vulnerable communities.
- **Climate legislation and just transition:** Continue consideration of the proposed climate change management legislation and integration of climate provisions into existing environmental law while mobilizing climate finance and ensuring that transition policies protect vulnerable populations.
- **Modernization of ageing legislation:** Reform **Law No. 13 of 1998** to move from a predominantly welfare-based approach towards a comprehensive framework for **active, healthy and dignified ageing**.
- **Integrated long-term care and social protection:** Strengthen social protection for vulnerable older persons, family- and community-based long-term care, protection against violence and discrimination, integrated health and social services, improved data systems and stronger cross-sectoral coordination.

Recommendations

Indonesia's experience demonstrates the value of treating gender equality, youth development, climate resilience and population ageing as interdependent components of demographic policy rather than separate sectoral agendas. Future policy should therefore connect investments made earlier in the life course with outcomes in employment, family well-being, health and ageing.

The ongoing reform of ageing legislation provides an opportunity to establish a stronger rights- and needs-based framework for older persons while formally recognizing the contribution of families and communities to long-term care. At the same time, Indonesia should continue strengthening pathways between education, vocational skills and employment for young people; expanding women's economic participation; and ensuring that climate policies explicitly address the needs of vulnerable population groups.

Calls for Action to Parliamentarians

- Accelerate ageing law reform: Parliamentarians should advance a modern legislative framework that guarantees active, healthy and dignified ageing and strengthens social protection, integrated services and community-based long-term care.
- Legislate women's economic empowerment: Parliamentarians should address structural barriers—including violence, child marriage, unequal economic opportunity and unpaid care—that prevent women from participating fully in economic and public life.
- Invest decisively in youth: Parliamentarians should align education, TVET, health services and employment policies so that young people acquire skills relevant to current and future labor-market demand.
- Mainstream demographic considerations into climate legislation: Parliamentarians should ensure that climate laws, budgets and adaptation strategies protect populations most exposed to environmental and livelihood risks.
- Institutionalize community participation: Parliamentarians should ensure that communities are recognized not simply as beneficiaries but as partners in implementing ageing, health and social policies.

Conclusion

Indonesia’s presentation demonstrated that demographic resilience must be built across generations and across policy sectors simultaneously. The country's demographic potential will depend on whether progress in women’s empowerment and youth development can be sustained while responding effectively to climate vulnerability and preparing for a rapidly changing age structure. The intervention ultimately highlighted the importance of anticipating demographic change rather than reacting to it—ensuring that today’s investments in women and young people are matched by forward-looking systems capable of supporting active, healthy and dignified ageing in the future.

"These issues are closely interconnected and require integrated policy responses."
—Hon. Sri Wulan Sutomo Jasmine



Hon. Sheralizoda Muhamadullo

Member of Parliament, Tajikistan

Executive Summary

Hon. Sheralizoda presented Tajikistan’s experience in advancing gender equality and youth empowerment through constitutional guarantees, legislation, national development strategies and institutional measures. He positioned both priorities as fundamental investments in inclusive societies, resilient families and sustainable national development.

He highlighted the country's legal framework for equality between women and men, prevention of domestic violence and women's participation in public life, together with the use of mandatory gender screening in the legislative review process to promote equal opportunities. He also underscored the strategic importance of youth in a country where more than 70 per cent of the population is under the age of 35. National youth legislation, strategies, scholarships, grants and other programmes were presented as mechanisms for expanding young people's participation in public administration, education, science, healthcare, entrepreneurship and other sectors. His intervention emphasised the continuing role of parliament in strengthening legislation, supporting SDG implementation and translating commitments on equality and youth development into practical opportunities.

Key Messages

Hon. Sheralizoda emphasized that **gender equality and youth empowerment are fundamental components of national development and social resilience**. Protecting women's rights and expanding their participation strengthen not only individual opportunities but also families, institutions and society more broadly. His presentation situated gender equality within Tajikistan's wider national development trajectory and its international human rights commitments.

He similarly portrayed Tajikistan's predominantly young population as a major national resource whose participation will influence the country's future development. The underlying message was that young people should be recognized not merely as beneficiaries of development but as **participants in public life, institutions, entrepreneurship and national progress**. Across both gender equality and youth empowerment, he stressed the importance of partnership and dialogue among national institutions, civil society and international partners in building inclusive and resilient societies.

Policies

- **Constitutional guarantee of equality and non-discrimination:** Maintain gender equality as a fundamental legal principle through constitutional guarantees of equal rights and freedoms and protection against discrimination.
- **Comprehensive gender equality legislation:** Strengthen implementation of existing measures, including the presidential decree on enhancing the role of women in society, legislation guaranteeing equality between women and men, and the law on prevention of domestic violence.
- **Gender-responsive legislative scrutiny:** Institutionalize **mandatory gender screening in the review of legislation** so that proposed laws are systematically assessed for their implications for equal opportunities for women and men.
- **Gender equality within national development planning:** Maintain gender equality as a development priority and strengthen cooperation among government institutions, civil society and international partners in translating legal commitments into implementation.
- **Women's representation and participation:** Continue expanding women's meaningful participation across legislative, executive and judicial institutions as well as education, healthcare, science, business, culture and public administration.
- **Comprehensive state youth policy:** Implement the Law on Youth and State Youth Policy alongside national strategies, concepts and programs that expand opportunities for a population in which more than 70 per cent are under 35.
- **Investment in youth leadership and human capital:** Sustain scholarships, grants, national competitions and other mechanisms that support young people's participation in public administration, representative institutions, education, science, healthcare, entrepreneurship and other sectors.

Recommendations

Tajikistan's experience suggests that strong legal guarantees should be accompanied by consistent implementation, institutional accountability and meaningful participation. Gender screening of legislation should continue to be used as a practical parliamentary mechanism for identifying unequal impacts and ensuring that equality principles are reflected in substantive law.

Given Tajikistan's youthful population structure, youth policy should remain closely linked to national development planning, with particular attention to education, skills, entrepreneurship, leadership opportunities and participation in public institutions. Cooperation among parliament, government, civil society and international partners should be deepened so that gender equality and youth empowerment move from formal commitments to measurable social and economic outcomes.

Calls for Action to Parliamentarians

- **Institutionalize gender-responsive lawmaking:** Parliamentarians should ensure that gender screening is rigorously applied throughout the legislative process and followed by effective implementation and oversight.
- **Strengthen protection from violence and discrimination:** Parliamentarians should scrutinize implementation of existing legislation and ensure that legal protections translate into accessible and effective safeguards for women.
- **Expand women's participation:** Parliamentarians should support measures that increase women's meaningful representation and leadership across political, economic and public institutions.
- **Prioritize youth in national investment:** Parliamentarians should use legislation, budget scrutiny and oversight to expand education, skills, entrepreneurship and leadership opportunities for young people.
- Deepen parliamentary cooperation: Parliamentarians should use AFPPD and other regional mechanisms to exchange legislative experience and strengthen shared commitments to gender equality, youth empowerment and sustainable development.

Conclusion

Tajikistan's experience underscored that gender equality and youth empowerment are mutually reinforcing foundations of inclusive and sustainable development. Constitutional and legislative commitments provide an important foundation, but their broader significance lies in enabling women and young people to participate meaningfully in public institutions, economic life and national development. With a predominantly young population, Tajikistan's long-term resilience will be closely linked to its ability to translate these commitments into opportunities for participation, leadership and contribution, while maintaining partnership and dialogue across government, parliament, civil society and international partners.

"Gender equality and youth empowerment are investments in strong families, resilience, and sustainable development."

—Hon. Sheralizoda Muhamadullo



Hon. Ovekova Janet

Member of Parliament, Turkmenistan

Executive Summary

Hon. Ovekova presented Turkmenistan's approach to **demographic sustainability as a comprehensive development agenda** linking human capital, gender equality, youth investment, the care economy, social protection, active ageing, climate action and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. She stressed that demographic resilience concerns not only population size or age structure, but also the ability of society and the state to ensure appropriate living conditions and opportunities throughout the life course.

Her presentation placed particular emphasis on the **care economy and social protection as investments in demographic and economic sustainability**, highlighting their contribution to family well-being, employment creation, quality of life and women's participation in education, employment and public life. She also outlined national measures on gender equality, youth policy, social services, active ageing and climate change. Importantly, she positioned parliament not only as

a legislative and budgetary institution, but also as a source of **long-term policy stewardshi**p, capable of integrating demographic considerations into social, economic and climate policies and strengthening regional and inter-parliamentary cooperation.

Key Messages

Hon. Ovekova's central message was that **demographic sustainability extends beyond population numbers and age structures; it concerns the capacity of a country to support people's well-being and quality of life at every stage of the life course.** She presented demographic resilience as inherently multidimensional, connecting human capital, family well-being, gender equality, youth, care, ageing, social protection, economic participation and environmental sustainability.

A distinctive emphasis of her presentation was that **social development and economic development should not be viewed as competing priorities.** Investment in people, care and social protection can strengthen families, expand participation and contribute to longer-term economic and demographic resilience. She further emphasized that contemporary demographic challenges require coordinated responses across sectors and institutions, supported by cooperation among governments, parliaments, civil society and international partners rather than isolated interventions.

Policies

- **Integrated demographic sustainability framework:** Position demographic resilience within a broad development framework encompassing human capital, education, healthcare, employment, family support, youth development, gender equality, social protection, digitalisation and environmental sustainability.
- **Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals:** Continue aligning national development programs with the 2030 Agenda, recognizing the interdependence of poverty reduction, health, education, gender equality, decent work and reduced inequalities.
- **Strengthened gender equality architecture:** Implement constitutional guarantees and the Law on State Guarantees for Ensuring Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, supported by the National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2026–2030.
- **Strategic investment in youth:** Strengthen implementation of the Law on State Youth Policy by expanding opportunities in education, housing, employment, economic participation and professional development.
- **Development of the care economy:** Treat accessible and quality care for children, older persons, persons with disabilities and others requiring assistance as both social infrastructure and an economic investment that strengthens families, generates employment and expands women's opportunities to participate in education, employment and public life.
- **Targeted and responsive social services:** Continue developing the legislative framework established through the Law on Social Services and strengthen social protection systems so that services respond more closely to the actual needs of individuals and families.
- **Sustained social-sector investment:** Maintain strong public investment in education, healthcare and social protection as foundations for human capital and demographic resilience.
- **Active and dignified ageing:** Develop policies that ensure longer life expectancy is accompanied by opportunities for older persons to maintain health, social participation and quality of life.
- **Climate and demographic integration:** Implement the National Strategy on Climate Change while strengthening regional cooperation on climate technologies and desertification and incorporating demographic considerations into social, economic and climate policy.

- **Long-term parliamentary stewardship:** Position parliaments not only as lawmakers and budget authorities but as institutions responsible for shaping a long-term vision linking demographic, social and economic priorities.

Recommendations

Turkmenistan's presentation points towards a more integrated understanding of demographic sustainability in which **care, social protection and human capital investment are treated as productive foundations of economic and social resilience rather than residual welfare expenditure.** Policy frameworks should therefore connect investments in children and youth with support for families, gender equality, active ageing and protection for persons requiring care.

Further inter-parliamentary cooperation should focus on the four areas identified in the presentation: **investment in young people's human capital; development of accessible and sustainable care systems; support for active and dignified ageing; and systematic consideration of demographic factors in social, economic and climate policies.** Exchange of legislative and implementation experience can help countries identify effective approaches and direct resources towards interventions with the greatest social impact.

Calls for Action to Parliamentarians

- Recognize care as strategic infrastructure: Parliamentarians should legislate and budget for accessible, sustainable and quality care systems as investments in families, women's economic participation, employment and demographic resilience.
- Protect long-term social investment: Parliamentarians should safeguard adequate financing for education, healthcare and social protection and scrutinise whether expenditure is reaching populations with the greatest needs.
- Invest in the next generation: Parliamentarians should strengthen legislation and budgets supporting young people's education, employment, economic participation and professional development.
- Prepare proactively for population ageing: Parliamentarians should ensure that ageing policy promotes health, social participation, dignity and quality of life rather than responding only after dependency occurs.
- Integrate demographic and climate policymaking: Parliamentarians should ensure that demographic trends and population vulnerabilities are systematically considered when shaping economic, social and climate legislation.
- Use parliamentary diplomacy: Parliamentarians should strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation and exchange practical legislative experience on care systems, youth investment, active ageing and climate resilience.

Conclusion

Turkmenistan’s presentation reinforced a broad understanding of **demographic sustainability as an investment in people throughout the life course.** By linking human capital, gender equality, youth development, care, social protection, active ageing and climate resilience, the country’s approach illustrated that demographic policy cannot be separated from wider social and economic development. A particularly significant takeaway was that c**are and social protection should be understood not simply as expenditure, but as investments that strengthen families, enable participation and contribute to longer-term demographic and economic resilience.** The presentation therefore positioned integrated and forward-looking policymaking as essential to building an inclusive and *sustainable future.*

"Investment in care systems and social protection is not simply social expenditure—it is an investment in our demographic and economic future."

— Hon. Ovekova Janet

Chair's Overall Session Conclusion

Drawing together the national experiences, Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva concluded that while participating countries are at different stages of demographic transition, they face remarkably similar structural challenges requiring integrated parliamentary responses.

She highlighted each country's distinctive contribution: Thailand demonstrated that active ageing begins with lifelong prevention and accessible healthcare; Indonesia illustrated the importance of empowering women, investing in youth, addressing climate risks, and preparing early for population ageing; Tajikistan showed how legal reforms and youth policies can strengthen inclusive development; and Turkmenistan reinforced that investment in care systems and social protection should be recognised as investment in demographic and economic resilience.

She concluded that demographic resilience cannot be built through isolated policies but requires coordinated investments throughout the life course—in women, young people, families, and older persons—supported by effective climate action.

"As parliamentarians, our responsibility is to translate these priorities into legislation, budget, and effective oversight."
—Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva

Q&A / Open Forum

Community Participation in Supporting an Ageing Population

Question – Ms. Ermalena M. Hasbullah, IFPPD Secretary:
The Indonesian delegate highlighted the importance of community participation in supporting an ageing population, particularly in the context of Indonesia's efforts to amend its legislation on older persons' welfare. The delegate asked how the role of communities could be incorporated alongside the responsibilities of parliament and government, and also invited reflections from Tajikistan and Turkmenistan on community participation within their respective national strategies.

Response – Associate Professor Dr. Prudit Tejativaddhan, Thailand:
Dr. Prudit agreed that communities are integral to effective health and ageing systems. He explained that Thailand has encouraged community participation in healthcare for many years through mechanisms such as **village health volunteers and caregivers.** Local funding is also channeled through local government and health-related funds to enable communities to take greater responsibility for their own health. These community mechanisms are connected with clinical services, including community hospitals and primary care units, thereby creating a bridge between formal healthcare provision and community-based support.

Sustaining Strong Community Participation in Indonesia

Question – Senator Datuk Wira Dr. Mohd Hatta Ramli, Malaysia:

Drawing on his previous observations of Indonesia's health system, Senator Datuk Wira Dr. Mohd Hatta Ramli noted the historically strong level of community participation in Indonesia, including public awareness of immunization and other health programs. He asked how Indonesia had been able to sustain such informed and active community participation over time.

Response – Samidjo, Indonesia:

Samidjo explained that Indonesia's strong community participation is supported by a long-established network of community organizations operating down to village and sub-village levels. He highlighted the role of groups such as the **PKK women's welfare movement,** which has provided an organized platform for community involvement for many years. Community volunteers or cadres

have also played an important role. While their participation is not primarily financially motivated, volunteers have been encouraged through training, opportunities to develop expertise, recognition and exposure to experiences in other communities. Over time, these mechanisms have helped cultivate a strong culture of voluntary participation among women and, increasingly, men in community activities.

Lifestyle Medicine Education and Financing in Thailand

Question – Hon. Le Van Kham, MP Vietnam:

The delegate from Vietnam asked whether Lifestyle Medicine had been incorporated as a professional subject within secondary or university medical education and whether government financing or health insurance covered Lifestyle Medicine services, thereby enabling people to access such services without additional charges.

Response – Associate Professor Dr. Prudit Tejativaddhan, Thailand:

Dr. Prudit explained that the **Medical Council of Thailand has recognised Lifestyle Medicine as a specialist field,** although its institutional development remains at an early stage. Some medical faculties have begun incorporating Lifestyle Medicine into undergraduate curricula, while nursing faculties at certain universities are also being encouraged to integrate the subject into their programs. On financing, he noted that Thailand had introduced a specific incentive mechanism for clinics achieving successful outcomes in NCD remission, including diabetes remission through lifestyle modification. Under this arrangement, successful facilities may receive additional government funding through the relevant national health financing mechanism.

Youth Employment, Skills Mismatch and Vocational Training in Indonesia

Question – Hon. Lork Kheng, MP Cambodia:

The Cambodian delegate asked about Indonesia's experience in addressing youth unemployment and whether technical and vocational training is sufficiently aligned with labour-market demand. Referring to Cambodia's own efforts to encourage young people to undertake vocational and technical training, the delegate sought to understand whether Indonesia faced similar difficulties in attracting young people to such programs and how the country was supporting their transition into employment.

Response – Hon. Sri Wulan Sutomo, MP Indonesian:

The Indonesian delegation acknowledged that young people in Indonesia continue to face significant difficulties in securing employment, particularly because of the persistent mismatch between education and the needs of industry. The respondent noted that this challenge is especially pronounced among young women. Although educational participation among young women and men has become increasingly comparable, women continue to experience greater difficulty entering the labour market. The discussion attributed part of this disparity to continuing cultural and traditional expectations, including women's disproportionate household and care responsibilities, which can constrain their participation in paid employment.

An additional intervention from the Indonesian delegation emphasized the importance of locally adapted training and advocacy at district level, particularly for people who have not followed formal educational pathways. Such initiatives were described as being adapted to the circumstances and culture of individual districts, with the objective of equipping participants with practical capabilities that can improve their prospects of entering employment after completing the training.

Closing Reflection

The discussion reinforced that community participation, preventive healthcare, youth investment, and parliamentary leadership are mutually reinforcing pillars of demographic resilience. Across the

exchanges, delegates consistently emphasized that successful legislation must be supported by empowered communities, sustainable financing, and continuous parliamentary oversight.



Session 7: Dialogue with Partners on Poverty Eradication — "Getting Ready for the 60th Session of Commission on Population Development - Unpack and assess current regional trends that challenges the efforts to eradicate poverty"

Session Objective: To enhance dialogue and collaboration between parliamentarians and national committees beyond the Asia-Pacific region in shaping inclusive and evidence-based policies, and to establish inter-regional cooperation and knowledge exchange among parliamentary partners.

Session Context

Session 7, "Dialogue with Partners on Poverty Eradication — Getting Ready for the 60th Session of Commission on Population Development," provided an inter-regional platform for parliamentarians and development partners to examine poverty eradication within the broader population and development agenda and to consider priorities ahead of the **60th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development (CPD60)**. The session sought to strengthen dialogue and collaboration among parliamentary networks within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region, promote knowledge exchange across regions, and explore how parliamentarians could contribute to inclusive, evidence-based and people-centred responses to poverty, demographic change and

sustainable development. The discussion placed particular emphasis on translating the commitments of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action into legislation, budgets, oversight and concrete improvements in people's lives.

The MC introduced **Prof. Gita Sen, Expert from India, as Moderator**, together with the panel comprising **H.E. Ambassador Jonibek Hikmat, Chair of CPD60 and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations,** who addressed the session through a video message**; Hon. Dr. Abdel Hady Qasaby, Member of Parliament from Egypt and representative of the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD); H.E. Dr. Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpuo of Ghana, President of the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (APFPD); and Ms. Alexa Johns, Executive Director of the Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.** The panel brought together perspectives from Asia and the Pacific, Africa, the Arab region, the United Nations system and civil society, enabling the discussion to move from the global ICPD framework to practical parliamentary and inter-regional action. The transcript explicitly identifies Ambassador Hikmat as Chair of CPD60 and Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the UN.



Moderator — Prof. Gita Sen

Expert, India

Executive Summary

Prof. Gita Sen situated the session within the historical evolution of international population and development policy, arguing that the **1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo represented not only a paradigm shift but also a fundamental shift in power.** It moved the global discourse away from population control and demographic targets towards a people-centred framework grounded in rights, well-being, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, bodily autonomy and the right to development.

She cautioned against responding to demographic change through what she described as recurring “moral panics”. Earlier concerns centred on high fertility and population growth, particularly in the Global South; contemporary anxieties increasingly focus on declining fertility. In both contexts, she warned against coercive approaches and emphasized that demographic challenges should instead be addressed through development, rights, care and supportive social and economic policies. Her intervention linked this directly to the Conference's wider discussions on the **care economy**, including the need to support women, children, older persons and diverse family structures.

Looking towards CPD60, Prof. Sen emphasized that population, poverty and sustainable development cannot be separated from wider questions of inequality, employment, climate change, conflict, gender equality and bodily autonomy. She urged parliamentarians to engage **before,** not only after, global negotiations and to ensure that national delegations arriving in New York reflect the needs and realities of the people they represent.

Key Messages

- **ICPD represented both a paradigm shift and a shift in power.** The 1994 Cairo consensus moved population policy away from demographic targets and coercive population control towards a **people-centred, rights-based approach** grounded in human well-being, gender equality, bodily autonomy and the right to development.
- **Demographic change should not trigger coercive policy responses**. Historical anxieties over high fertility and today's concerns about declining fertility demonstrate the risks of responding to demographic trends through what she described as recurring “moral panics”.

Policies should instead expand people's choices and address the underlying social and economic conditions influencing demographic behavior.

- **Development remains fundamental to population policy.** Health, education, decent employment, gender equality, social protection and economic security enable individuals and families to make meaningful choices about their lives and futures.
- **The care economy should be central to responses to demographic transition.** Ageing, declining fertility and changing family structures require stronger systems of care and social support rather than policies that place disproportionate responsibility on women to resolve demographic challenges.
- **Population policy must recognize the diversity of families and households.** Social and development policies should respond to the realities of extended families, female-headed households and other family arrangements rather than relying exclusively on a conventional nuclear-family model.
- **Rights and development justice must remain mutually reinforcing.** The right to development, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and bodily autonomy should be treated as interconnected elements of the ICPD framework rather than competing priorities.
- **Parliamentary engagement must begin before CPD60.** Parliamentarians should help shape national positions, scrutinise government priorities and ensure that delegations entering global negotiations represent the realities and needs of the populations they serve.



H.E. Ambassador Jonibek Hikmat

Chair, 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development; Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations
Video Message

Executive Summary

Ambassador Hikmat positioned CPD60 as an important opportunity to renew international attention to the relationship between **population, poverty, education and sustainable development.** He stressed that although significant progress has been made in reducing extreme poverty, hundreds of millions of people continue to experience severe deprivation and the world remains off track to achieve SDG 1 by 2030.

He emphasized that poverty must be understood as multidimensional. It is not limited to insufficient income but encompasses inadequate access to healthcare, education, decent employment, adequate housing, social protection and opportunities. Consequently, poverty eradication requires integrated investment in human development alongside policies that advance gender equality, women's empowerment, decent work and social protection.

He also highlighted the distinctive role of parliamentarians in translating international commitments into national outcomes through **legislation, budget allocation, oversight and engagement with communities.** In a challenging multilateral environment, he called for dialogue, listening and the search for common ground to enable CPD60 to advance implementation of both the ICPD Program of Action and the 2030 Agenda. His statement specifically linked poverty with population dynamics, inequality, health, education, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

Key Messages

- **CPD60 provides an important opportunity to reconnect poverty eradication with the broader ICPD agenda.** Population dynamics, inequality, health, education, gender equality and environmental sustainability are deeply interconnected and require integrated policy responses.
- **Poverty is multidimensional and extends far beyond income deprivation.** It includes inadequate access to healthcare, education, decent work, adequate housing, social protection and opportunities, requiring poverty-reduction strategies that address multiple and overlapping forms of disadvantage.
- I**nvestment in people is central to sustainable poverty eradication.** Health, education and nutrition, together with gender equality and women's empowerment, decent employment and social protection, are fundamental to improving individual well-being and breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty.
- **Demographic evidence should inform development policy.** Understanding population change and disparities within and between countries is essential for directing resources towards populations and communities experiencing the greatest disadvantage.
- **Asia and the Pacific demonstrate both progress and persistent inequality**. While many countries have significantly reduced extreme poverty, substantial disparities remain, highlighting the need for continued and more targeted action.
- **Parliamentarians are essential to translating global commitments into national results**. Through legislation, budget allocation, oversight and engagement with communities, they can bridge the gap between international agreements and tangible improvements in people's lives.
- **Dialogue and consensus-building remain essential in a difficult multilateral environment.** Differences among countries should strengthen rather than diminish efforts to listen, identify common ground and advance implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda.

Policies

- **Integrated poverty-eradication policy:** Embed population dynamics, health, education, gender equality, employment, social protection and environmental sustainability within national poverty-reduction frameworks.
- **Human-capital investment:** Protect and strengthen public investment in health, education and nutrition, particularly for populations facing multidimensional deprivation.
- **Gender-responsive development:** Integrate women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality across poverty, education, employment and social-development policies.
- **Decent work and social protection:** Strengthen policies that expand productive employment while ensuring effective social protection for people facing poverty and vulnerability.
- **Demographic evidence in policymaking:** Use population and demographic evidence to identify disparities between and within countries and to target interventions more effectively.
- **Parliamentary accountability mechanisms:** Strengthen legislative, budgetary and oversight processes so that international commitments are translated into measurable national action.

Recommendations

Governments and parliaments should approach CPD60 as an opportunity to reconnect poverty eradication with the full ICPD agenda rather than treating poverty as a stand-alone economic issue. National preparations should therefore draw on demographic evidence, community experience and multidimensional measures of deprivation. Particular attention should be given to populations that remain excluded from healthcare, education, decent employment, adequate housing and social protection.

Parliamentarians should also strengthen dialogue across countries and regions ahead of CPD60 so that areas of common concern can be identified and constructive consensus built around practical implementation of the ICPD Program of Action and the 2030 Agenda.

Calls for Action

Parliamentarians should use their legislative, budgetary, oversight and representative mandates to turn CPD60 commitments into tangible improvements in people's lives.

- **Legislate** for inclusive, rights-based approaches to poverty reduction and sustainable development.
- **Allocate and scrutinize budgets** to protect investment in health, education, nutrition, decent work and social protection.
- **Exercise oversight** to ensure that international commitments are implemented nationally and reach populations experiencing the greatest deprivation.
- **Bring community voices into policymaking**, particularly those of populations facing poverty and exclusion.
- **Support constructive inter-regional dialogue** ahead of CPD60 and contribute to building common ground around implementation.

Conclusion

Ambassador Hikmat concluded that CPD60 should provide a constructive platform for advancing implementation of the ICPD Program of Action and the 2030 Agenda. Despite difficulties in achieving international consensus, dialogue and cooperation remain essential, and parliamentarians can play a decisive role in connecting global commitments with national and community realities.

"Parliamentarians have a particularly important role through legislation, budgets, oversight, and engagement with communities."
H.E. Ambassador Jonibek Hikmat



Hon. Dr. Abdel Hady Qasaby

Member of Parliament, Egypt; Representative, Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD)

Executive Summary

Hon. Dr. Abdel Hady Qasaby brought the perspective of the Arab region to the discussion, identifying **poverty, unemployment, conflict, rising living costs, climate change and water scarcity** as mutually reinforcing development challenges. He emphasized that conflicts destroy livelihoods and services, displace communities and undermine access to healthcare and education, while unemployment—particularly among young people and women—prevents countries from fully converting their demographic potential into development.

He argued that poverty eradication requires sustained public policy, long-term investment and cooperation among parliaments, governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector. Particular attention should be directed towards social protection, education, health, research, youth employment and women's economic empowerment.

He also placed peace at the centre of the development agenda, arguing that resources consumed by war and conflict could instead be directed towards education, health and poverty reduction.

Key Messages

- **Poverty in the Arab region is shaped by multiple and mutually reinforcing pressures.** Conflict, unemployment, rising living costs, climate change and water scarcity undermine livelihoods, weaken access to essential services and disproportionately affect low-income and vulnerable families.
- **Conflict is a fundamental obstacle to sustainable development.** Wars and crises destroy infrastructure and livelihoods, disrupt education and healthcare, displace populations and divert resources that could otherwise support human development and poverty eradication.
- **The region's youthful population represents both an opportunity and a policy responsibility.** Young people should be recognized not merely as recipients of support but as active contributors to development, provided they have access to quality education, relevant skills, training and productive employment.
- **Social protection must be targeted towards those experiencing the greatest vulnerability.** Support systems should prioritize poor families, women, children, young people and populations facing particularly difficult circumstances.
- **Women's economic empowerment is essential to inclusive development.** Legislation and public policy should expand women's opportunities in education, employment and entrepreneurship while improving their access to finance and productive economic participation.
- **Investment in education, health and research is fundamental to long-term poverty reduction.** Parliamentarians have an important responsibility to ensure that these sectors receive adequate and sustained public resources.
- **Poverty eradication requires collective responsibility and long-term commitment.** Governments, parliaments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector must work together to develop practical and sustainable responses rather than relying on isolated or short-term interventions.
- **Inter-regional parliamentary cooperation can strengthen implementation.** Greater collaboration between Arab and Asian parliamentary networks can facilitate the exchange of experience and strengthen collective responses to shared population and development challenges.
- **Peace is ultimately a development imperative.** Redirecting resources and political attention away from conflict and towards education, health, employment and poverty reduction would significantly strengthen prospects for sustainable development.

Policies

- **Targeted and inclusive social protection:** Strengthen social assistance systems so that support reaches households experiencing the greatest poverty and vulnerability, with particular attention to women, children, young people and families affected by crises.
- **Education, health and research investment:** Protect adequate public financing for education, healthcare and scientific research as long-term foundations for poverty reduction and human development.
- **Youth employment and skills development:** Expand education, vocational training and skills-development policies that enable young people to transition from unemployment into productive employment.
- **Women's economic empowerment:** Strengthen legislation and policies supporting women's participation in employment and entrepreneurship and improve access to financing and economic opportunities.
- **Climate and water resilience:** Integrate climate adaptation, water security and food-security considerations into poverty-reduction and development planning.

- **Conflict-sensitive development:** Protect essential services and vulnerable populations in contexts affected by conflict and displacement while recognizing peace and stability as prerequisites for sustained development.
- **Inter-regional parliamentary cooperation:** Strengthen cooperation between parliamentary networks in the Arab region and Asia to exchange policy experience and develop practical responses to shared population and development challenges.

Recommendations

Poverty eradication should be pursued through long-term strategies rather than temporary interventions. Governments and parliaments should combine social protection with sustained investment in education, healthcare, research, employment and economic opportunity, ensuring that public resources reach populations facing the greatest disadvantage.

Greater attention should also be given to converting the region's youthful population into productive human capital through education, training and employment. At the same time, women's economic participation should be supported through enabling legislation, access to finance and opportunities for entrepreneurship.

Hon. Dr. Qasaby further advocated stronger cooperation among governments, parliamentarians, the United Nations, international partners and civil society, arguing that dialogue and exchange of experience can produce more practical and sustainable solutions.

Calls for Action

Parliamentarians should use their legislative and budgetary authority to make poverty eradication a sustained national priority rather than a temporary social-policy response.

- Enact and strengthen legislation that addresses poverty, unemployment and social exclusion.
- Secure adequate budget allocations for education, health, research and effective social protection.
- Advance youth-centred policies that connect education and training directly with productive employment.
- Remove barriers to women's economic participation and strengthen access to employment, entrepreneurship and finance.
- Strengthen parliamentary cooperation across regions so that experience and solutions can be shared ahead of CPD60.
- Advocate for peace and the redirection of resources towards human development, recognizing the severe developmental costs of war and conflict.

Conclusion

Hon. Dr. Qasaby concluded that poverty eradication is neither simple nor the responsibility of a single institution. It requires sustained policies, substantial investment, cooperation across sectors and, fundamentally, an environment of peace. He challenged participants to consider how much more could be achieved if resources directed towards wars and conflicts were instead invested in education, health and poverty eradication.

"What would happen if all the capabilities and resources directed to wars were redirected to education, health and confronting poverty?"

— **Hon. Dr. Abdel Hady Qasaby**



H.E. Dr. Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpuo

Minister of State for Special Initiatives Ghana; President, African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (APFPD), Ghana

Executive Summary

H.E. Dr. Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpuo emphasized that Africa and Asia, representing a substantial share of the world's population, have both a shared responsibility and an opportunity to shape the global population and development agenda. Drawing on the legacy of ICPD, he argued that population policy must ultimately be about **people, dignity, health, education, gender equality and opportunity,** rather than demographic numbers alone.

His central message was the need to move **from declarations to implementation.** International commitments have value only when they reach ordinary citizens: the woman requiring emergency maternal healthcare, the child whose family cannot afford education, the graduate unable to find employment and the family struggling to afford food, housing and healthcare. The existing report similarly captures his emphasis that international declarations do not themselves transform lives; implementation does.

For Africa, he stressed that a young population does not automatically generate a demographic dividend. It must be supported through investment in education, healthcare, skills, technology, entrepreneurship and productive employment. He further defined poverty as the **absence of opportunity,** encompassing poor healthcare, inadequate education, unemployment, inadequate housing, lack of clean water, hunger and vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks.

Key Messages

- **Population should be understood as human potential rather than simply demographic pressure.** Development policy should invest in people's health, education, skills, dignity and productive capacity so that demographic change becomes an opportunity for sustainable development.
- **The central challenge is moving from declarations to delivery.** International commitments acquire meaning only when they produce tangible improvements in the lives of ordinary people, particularly those facing barriers to healthcare, education, employment and basic services.
- **Africa's youthful population does not automatically guarantee a demographic dividend.** Realizing its potential requires sustained investment in education, healthcare, skills development, technology, entrepreneurship and, above all, productive and decent employment.
- **Poverty is fundamentally an absence of opportunity.** It is reflected not only in inadequate income but also in unemployment, limited access to quality healthcare and education, inadequate housing, lack of clean water and heightened vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks.
- **Economic transformation must accompany social investment.** Sustainable poverty eradication requires agricultural transformation, stronger regional trade, inclusive digital economies and greater opportunities for small businesses, entrepreneurs and young innovators.
- **Young people must be participants in development, not simply beneficiaries of policy.** Education and skills should be accompanied by access to finance, mentorship, employment, entrepreneurship and meaningful participation in economic and political decision-making.
- **Gender equality is both a rights imperative and a development imperative.** Societies cannot realise their full development potential while women and girls face unequal access to education, healthcare, employment, productive resources and decision-making.

- **National budgets are powerful population and development instruments.** Decisions on education, maternal healthcare, employment, housing and social protection directly determine the conditions in which populations live and therefore require strong parliamentary scrutiny.
- **Parliamentarians must bridge the implementation gap.** Their legislative, budgetary, oversight and representative powers position them to ensure that international commitments are translated into national action and measurable community-level results.
- **Africa–Asia cooperation should move towards practical exchange and joint action.** Shared challenges—including climate change, migration, urbanization, youth employment and demographic transition—provide strong grounds for deeper inter-regional parliamentary cooperation.

Policies

- **Human-capital-centred demographic policy:** Treat population as a productive national asset by linking demographic planning with investment in health, education, skills and employment.
- **Education and skills transformation:** Align education, technical and vocational training and digital skills with contemporary labor-market and economic needs.
- **Employment-centred development:** Make productive and decent employment—particularly for young people—a central component of population and poverty-eradication strategies.
- **Economic transformation:** Advance industrialization, agricultural transformation, regional value chains and inclusive digital economies capable of generating broad-based opportunity.
- **Entrepreneurship and innovation:** Expand access to finance and support for small enterprises, entrepreneurs and young innovators.
- **Comprehensive social development:** Strengthen access to healthcare, education, adequate housing, clean water and social protection as essential components of poverty eradication.
- **Women's and girls' empowerment:** Ensure equal access to education, quality healthcare, employment, entrepreneurship, land, credit, productive resources, leadership and decision-making.
- **Protection from discrimination and harmful practices:** Strengthen measures addressing violence, discrimination and harmful practices affecting women and girls.
- **Inter-regional Africa–Asia cooperation:** Develop sustained platforms for exchanging experience on demographic transition, climate change, urbanization, migration and inclusive economic transformation.

Recommendations

CPD60 should focus on closing the gap between international commitments and implementation at national and community levels. Governments and parliaments should assess success not simply by agreements reached internationally but by whether policies tangibly improve access to healthcare, education, employment, housing, clean water and economic opportunity.

National development strategies should deliberately convert demographic potential into human capital by linking education and health investment with skills, technology, entrepreneurship and productive employment. Young people should also participate meaningfully in political and economic decision-making.

Africa and Asia should deepen inter-regional cooperation by exchanging policy experience and developing joint responses to shared challenges such as climate change, migration, urbanization and demographic transition.

Calls for Action

- Parliamentarians must move population and development commitments from declarations to delivery, from commitment to implementation, and from statistics to human lives.

- Use national budgets strategically, recognizing that decisions on education, maternal health, employment, housing and social protection directly shape population and development outcomes.
- Exercise rigorous oversight to ensure that approved resources reach communities and produce measurable improvements.
- Legislate for productive employment and inclusive economic transformation, particularly for young people.
- Prioritize women and girls in legislation, financing and development planning.
- Ensure that CPD60 commitments are followed by national implementation, rather than ending with diplomatic agreement in New York.
- Strengthen Africa–Asia parliamentary cooperation around shared demographic and development challenges.

Conclusion

H.E. Dr. Pelpuo concluded that the ultimate measure of population and development policy is whether it improves people's everyday lives. Africa and Asia should therefore transform their demographic resources into human capital and sustainable prosperity while ensuring that young people and women are central participants in development.

"Declarations alone do not transform lives. Implementation does."
—H.E. Dr. Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpuo



Ms. Alexa Johns

Executive Director, Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Executive Summary

Ms. Alexa Johns connected the preceding two days of conference discussions directly to the ICPD framework, observing that poverty, urbanization, ageing, declining fertility, migration, youth, climate vulnerability, gender inequality, health, education, decent work, the care economy and sexual and reproductive health and rights are interconnected components of the same population and development agenda.

She emphasized that ICPD fundamentally concerns **choices, rights and power:** who has access to resources, who participates in decision-making and whose rights are protected. She cautioned that CPD negotiations are occurring amid increasing geopolitical divisions, pressure on development financing, declining trust in multilateral institutions and organized opposition to aspects of the gender and rights agenda.

Her intervention stressed that poverty cannot be separated from access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. People who lack bodily autonomy, healthcare and reproductive choice face greater barriers to education, employment and participation in development. She therefore called for stronger political will, public investment and accountability to convert ICPD commitments into national laws, policies and budgets.

She also emphasized the complementary roles of **parliamentarians and civil society:** civil society contributes evidence, research, community voices and accountability, while parliamentarians possess legislative, budgetary, representative and oversight authority.

Key Messages

- **The ICPD framework connects the major development challenges confronting Asia and the Pacific.** Poverty, urbanization, population ageing, declining fertility, migration, youth, climate and disaster vulnerability, gender inequality, health, education, employment and SRHR should be understood as interconnected rather than separate policy issues.
- **Poverty eradication is inseparable from rights,** choices and access to services. People's ability to escape poverty is shaped not only by income but also by access to healthcare, education, bodily autonomy, decent employment and opportunities to participate fully in society.
- **Sexual and reproductive health and rights are integral to development and poverty reduction.** Barriers to reproductive healthcare and bodily autonomy can reinforce inequality and limit people's ability—particularly women and girls—to pursue education, employment and economic security.
- **Persistent inequalities require deliberate policy attention.** Aggregate national progress can conceal significant disparities affecting women, adolescents and young people, persons with disabilities, migrants and other marginalized populations.
- **Global commitments must be translated into national political action.** ICPD principles become meaningful only when they are reflected in legislation, adequately financed policies, public services and accountability mechanisms.
- **Evidence and lived experience should shape policymaking.** Research, disaggregated data and community perspectives are essential for identifying who is being left behind and designing policies that respond to real needs.
- **Parliamentarians and civil society have complementary roles.** Civil society can provide evidence, community perspectives and accountability, while parliamentarians possess the authority to legislate, allocate budgets, exercise oversight and represent constituents.
- **Inclusive participation strengthens both policy and accountability.** People most affected by poverty, inequality and exclusion should have meaningful opportunities to influence the policies and decisions that affect their lives.
- **CPD60 should be approached as part of a continuing national process, not simply an international meeting.** Parliamentary and civil-society engagement before, during and after the Commission will be necessary to protect existing commitments and strengthen implementation.
- **Political will is critical to preserving the people-centred character of ICPD.** Progress requires parliamentarians and partners to connect international commitments with practical national action and ensure that development policies continue to place human dignity, equality and rights at their centre.

Policies

- Rights-based poverty policy: Embed human rights, bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights within poverty-eradication and sustainable-development strategies.
- Universal and equitable access to services: Address disparities in healthcare and reproductive health services, particularly for people experiencing poverty, rural communities, adolescents and young people.
- Gender-responsive budgeting and legislation: Assess public policies and budgets for their impact on gender equality, women's agency and access to essential services.

- Inclusive decision-making: Institutionalize mechanisms that bring the perspectives of women, adolescents, young people, persons with disabilities, migrants and other marginalized communities into policymaking.
- Evidence-based policymaking: Strengthen the use of research, disaggregated data and community evidence in legislation, budgeting and oversight.
- Accountability for ICPD implementation: Establish stronger national mechanisms for tracking whether ICPD commitments are reflected in laws, policies, budgets and service delivery.
- Structured parliament–civil society engagement: Develop sustained partnerships enabling civil society evidence and community experience to inform parliamentary decision-making.

Recommendations

Parliamentarians should approach CPD60 not simply as an international negotiation but as part of a continuing national policy process. Preparations should involve civil society, affected communities and groups whose voices are often underrepresented, enabling national positions to reflect lived realities and evidence.

The ICPD framework should also be connected to other global development processes rather than addressed in isolation. National implementation should integrate poverty eradication, gender equality, health, SRHR, climate resilience, decent work and social protection.

Stronger partnerships between parliamentarians and civil society should be institutionalized so that community evidence and research can inform legislation and budgets, while parliamentary oversight can strengthen government accountability for implementation.

Calls for Action

Parliamentarians should actively defend and implement the people-centred and rights-based commitments of ICPD through national political action.

- **Translate ICPD commitments into national legislation, policies and adequately financed budgets.**
- **Use oversight powers to hold governments accountable** for progress on poverty eradication, gender equality, health and SRHR.
- **Represent excluded and marginalized communities** in national policy and global negotiations.
- **Challenge stigma, misinformation, disinformation and discrimination** through evidence-based public leadership.
- **Work systematically with civil society** to bring evidence, lived experience and community priorities into parliamentary processes.
- **Engage proactively ahead of CPD60** so that national delegations arrive in New York with positions grounded in the needs and rights of their populations.

Conclusion

Ms. Johns concluded that CPD60 provides an opportunity not only to protect previous gains but also to confront persistent inequalities and turn international commitments into political action. Parliamentarians and civil society possess complementary strengths and, by working together, can help ensure that the ICPD agenda results in concrete improvements for people—particularly those most marginalised.

"Without sexual and reproductive health and rights, the right to development remains unfulfilled."

—Ms. Alexa Johns

Chair's / Overall Session Conclusion

In her concluding synthesis, Prof. Gita Sen observed that despite the considerable diversity of the Asia-Pacific, African and Arab regions, the panel had revealed a striking convergence of development challenges. Across regions, speakers highlighted youth unemployment, women's labor-force participation and gender equality, climate change, conflict, digital inclusion, economic transformation and persistent inequalities.

She stressed that these issues should not be divided artificially between “development” on one side and gender equality, bodily autonomy and reproductive rights on the other. Women's ability to participate in employment, provide and receive care, and contribute to economic and social development is closely connected to their health, bodily autonomy and access to rights and services.

Drawing attention to populations particularly vulnerable to crises and climate-related disasters—including women with children, older persons and those responsible for unpaid care—she reinforced the importance of integrating the **care economy, social protection, gender equality and climate resilience** within broader development policy.

Her strongest concluding message concerned the role of parliamentarians **before CPD60**. Parliamentary engagement should not begin only after international agreements have been reached. Parliamentarians should influence national preparations, scrutinize government positions and ensure that delegations negotiating in New York reflect the needs of the populations they represent.

Taken together, the panel established a common direction for CPD60: poverty eradication must move beyond income measures and be understood through the interconnected lenses of health, education, decent employment, gender equality, social protection, climate resilience, demographic change, bodily autonomy and human dignity. International declarations remain important, but their value ultimately depends upon **implementation through national laws, budgets, oversight, accountability and community-level results.**

The session therefore reinforced a clear parliamentary responsibility: to connect global commitments with national action and to strengthen inter-regional cooperation so that Asia-Pacific, African and Arab parliamentary networks can contribute substantive and coordinated inputs to CPD60.

Q&A / Open Forum

From Dialogue to Coordinated Parliamentary Action Ahead of CPD60

Due to time constraints, the Open Forum was brief. Rather than a conventional question-and-answer exchange in which every intervention received a substantive response from the panel, the discussion generated several concrete proposals for follow-up action ahead of CPD60.

Intervention 1 — Mr Samidjo, Coordinator of IFPPD: Developing a Common Parliamentary Position

A participant from Indonesia proposed that parliamentarians should move beyond further discussion of already-recognized challenges and begin developing concrete proposals ahead of CPD60. The participant called for parliamentarians from different countries to meet before the Commission session, identify shared priorities and formulate a common parliamentary contribution that could be presented at the global level.

The intervention specifically encouraged AFPPD to facilitate a preparatory meeting, creating a mechanism through which parliamentarians could consolidate their positions and bring a stronger collective voice to CPD60.

Moderator's Response: Prof. Sen welcomed the proposal and noted that it appeared to have considerable support among participants. She subsequently linked other interventions back to the Indonesian proposal, indicating its potential as a practical basis for follow-up.

Intervention 2 — Hon. Toshima Karki, MP Nepal: Universal Health Coverage and Poverty

A participant from Nepal highlighted the financial burden associated with healthcare and asked how international organizations, UN mechanisms and regional cooperation could move beyond high-level commitments towards more operational support for universal health coverage, while simultaneously advancing SDG 3 on health and SDG 1 on poverty eradication as the 2030 deadline approaches.

The intervention underscored the direct relationship between health expenditure and poverty: inadequate financial protection in health systems can itself push vulnerable households into poverty.

Moderator's Response: Prof. Sen described the issue as an important question and suggested that it should form part of the proposed follow-up discussion ahead of CPD60.

Intervention 3 — Sen. Hatta, Malaysia: Parliamentary Responsibility and an Online Preparatory Meeting

A participant from Malaysia strongly supported the Indonesian proposal and emphasized that parliamentarians participating in AFPPD had a responsibility to translate conference discussion into action. The participant suggested that logistical barriers should not prevent follow-up and proposed that a preparatory parliamentary meeting could be conducted online.

Moderator's Response: Prof. Sen welcomed the suggestion of an online meeting as a practical way of advancing the proposed follow-up process.

Final Intervention — Towards an Inter-Regional Parliamentary Mechanism

A final participant asked what concrete mechanism the parliamentary networks representing the Asia-Pacific, African and Arab regions could establish to transform the inter-regional dialogue into joint parliamentary action rather than parallel regional efforts ahead of CPD60.

Prof. Sen welcomed the proposal as an important addition to the earlier Indonesian intervention and referred the matter for organizational follow-up as the session transitioned to the subsequent program item.





Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony

Purpose and Significance of the MoU Signing Ceremony

The signing of four Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) represented a significant institutional milestone in AFPPD's evolving role as a platform for parliamentary cooperation on population and development. Held immediately before the Closing Ceremony, the signing gave practical expression to AFPPD's ambition to enter what Hon. Howard Lee described as its "next phase" of globalization, while remaining firmly rooted in the Asia-Pacific region. The agreements demonstrated that this transition was intended to extend beyond institutional positioning or identity and be translated into concrete action, cooperation and partnerships with regional and international counterparts.

The ceremony also underscored the increasingly cross-regional character of population and development challenges. As emphasized during the proceedings, the issues embedded in AFPPD's mandate and workplans transcend national borders and are universal in their relevance. The four MoUs therefore provided an institutional foundation for connecting parliamentary networks and partner organizations across regions, strengthening opportunities for cooperation around shared challenges and advancing collective approaches to population and development.

Importantly, the signing reflected a shift from partnership as dialogue towards partnership as practical collaboration. In outlining AFPPD's future direction, Hon. Howard Lee stressed the need for partners not merely to participate in conferences, but to work in solidarity through programming, events, discourse and the on-the-ground implementation of partnerships. The MoUs can therefore be understood as part of AFPPD's effort to build relationships capable of translating parliamentary dialogue into sustained institutional cooperation and implementation.

The ceremony was also significant in the context of AFPPD's broader institutional transition and the establishment of its new Secretariat in Malaysia. The discussion accompanying the signing emphasized that the success of a more dynamic and globally connected parliamentary network would depend on an effective Secretariat, active collaboration among member states and sustained engagement with partner institutions. Against this backdrop, the four MoUs symbolized both continuity with established partners and expansion towards new regional relationships, providing a platform from which AFPPD could progressively deepen cooperation beyond the Asia-Pacific.

Overall, the MoU Signing Ceremony served as a bridge between AFPPD's institutional transition and its future global engagement. Rather than marking the conclusion of the Conference alone, the four agreements signalled the beginning of a broader phase of cross-regional partnership-building, with AFPPD seeking to strengthen existing relationships, establish new channels of cooperation and translate shared parliamentary commitments into sustained programmes, dialogue and implementation.



Between AFPPD and FAPPD

MoU 1 — AFPPD and the Arab Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Organizations Signing:

The first MoU was between AFPPD and the Arab Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. The representative of the Arab Forum was welcomed into an expanding network centred on AFPPD's 30 member states. Malaysian representation was also present to witness the signing, reinforcing the significance of Malaysia's role in supporting AFPPD's institutional development and new phase of international cooperation.

Institutional Significance / Follow-up:

The agreement represents an expansion of AFPPD's cooperation beyond its traditional Asia-Pacific constituency and provides an institutional bridge for stronger engagement between parliamentary networks in the Asia-Pacific and Arab regions. Specific follow-up activities were not announced during the ceremony and would need to be verified against the signed MoU.



Between AFPPD and APFPD

MoU 2 — AFPPD and the African Forum

Organizations Signing:

The second MoU brought together AFPPD and the African Forum, whose representative was invited to participate in the signing as another regional counterpart in AFPPD's expanding international cooperation.

Institutional Significance / Follow-up:

The MoU extends AFPPD's institutional relationships to an African parliamentary counterpart and contributes to its broader ambition of developing a more globally connected parliamentary network. The ceremony did not specify concrete follow-up mechanisms or timelines under this particular agreement.



Between AFPPD and IPPF ESEAOR

MoU 3 — AFPPD and IPPF East & Southeast Asia and Oceania Region (IPPF ESEAOR)

Organizations Signing:

The third MoU involved AFPPD and IPPF East & Southeast Asia and Oceania Region (IPPF ESEAOR), which was introduced during the ceremony as a regional organization based in Kuala Lumpur.

Institutional Significance

The MoU strengthens AFPPD's engagement with a regional civil-society partner as part of its wider effort to broaden the range of organizations involved in its work.



Between AFPPD and APDA

MoU 4 — AFPPD and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

Organizations Signing:

The fourth MoU involved AFPPD and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), described during the ceremony as a long-time friend and long-time host of AFPPD.

Areas of Cooperation:

The transcript indicates that cooperation between AFPPD and APDA would continue, but in a different way following AFPPD's institutional transition. Key area of cooperation is on active and healthy ageing.

Institutional Significance

This MoU carries particular institutional significance because it reflects both continuity and transition in the longstanding relationship between AFPPD and APDA. The relationship was characterized during the ceremony as a "testament and manifestation of progress in continuity," indicating that the agreement was intended to preserve cooperation while adapting it to AFPPD's new institutional arrangements and global direction.

Overall Institutional Significance and Follow-up

Taken collectively, the four MoUs marked the commencement of AFPPD's next phase of globalization and demonstrated an intention to build a broader network of parliamentary, regional and civil-society partnerships. Hon. Howard Lee emphasized that future partnerships should extend

beyond participation in conferences towards substantive cooperation through programming, events, discourse and on-the-ground implementation. He also indicated that AFPPD would seek additional partnerships with other regions, organizations, CSOs and NGOs.









CLOSING CEREMONY

Executive Summary

The Closing Ceremony brought the two-day AFPPD Annual Conference 2026 to a formal conclusion and marked a transition from **conference deliberations to implementation and follow-up**. Closing remarks were delivered by **Hon. Howard Lee Chuan How, MP Malaysia and Secretary General of AFPPD; Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, MP Japan and Chair of AFPPD; and H.E. Dr. Chem Widhya, Secretary General of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), through a pre-recorded video message.**

Across the three interventions, speakers emphasized that the Conference outcomes should now be translated into **concrete parliamentary action through legislation, national budgets, oversight, stronger national committees and sustained regional and interregional cooperation.** Particular emphasis was placed on the interconnected priorities of demographic change, youth, gender, ageing, the care economy, climate resilience and digital transformation.

The Closing Ceremony also reflected an important institutional transition for AFPPD Global. With Malaysia established as the new permanent host of the AFPPD Secretariat, speakers emphasized the need to move from institutional development towards **operationalizing AFPPD's mandate,** strengthening its network and enabling national committees to translate regional and global priorities into national action.

Closing Statements



Hon. Howard Lee Chuan How

MP Malaysia | Secretary General of AFPPD

Executive Summary

Hon. Howard Lee framed the Closing Ceremony as the beginning of a new i**mplementation and operational phase for AFPPD Global.** With the institutional-building phase largely completed, he emphasized that the organization must now focus on translating its mandate into concrete action through stronger national committees, greater parliamentary engagement and the operationalization of shared priorities into policies and budgets.

He underscored that AFPPD should function as a genuine network and coalition of national committees capable of mobilizing parliamentarians across political and ideological boundaries.

Closing Statements

Hon. Howard stated that AFPPD had reached the point where the “building part” of its journey was complete and the **“real work”** should begin. He placed particular responsibility on the Secretary General and Executive Director to support this operational phase, while emphasizing that implementation ultimately depends upon the collective participation of AFPPD members and national committees.

He strongly encouraged both active and less active national committees to re-engage, mobilize parliamentarians and strengthen their institutional capacity. He identified **ageing, fertility, youth, gender and climate** as five universal issues around which parliamentarians should be able to build consensus despite differences in political affiliation or ideology.

Key Messages

- AFPPD Global should move decisively from **institution-building towards implementation and operationalization.**
- National committees are fundamental to the effectiveness and sustainability of the AFPPD network.
- Parliamentary cooperation should extend across political and ideological boundaries.
- **Ageing, fertility, youth, gender and climate** represent universal priorities requiring sustained parliamentary attention.
- Shared values and commitments must ultimately be translated into policies and national budgets.

Conference-Level Calls for Action

- **Activate and strengthen national committees** so that they become functioning and results-oriented platforms for parliamentary engagement.
- **Mobilize parliamentarians across political divides** around common population and development priorities.
- **Build consensus around the five universal priorities** of ageing, fertility, youth, gender and climate.
- **Translate AFPPD's shared priorities into policies and budgets,** ensuring that organizational commitments result in practical national action.

Closing Commitments / Directions

Hon. Howard's intervention established a clear direction for AFPPD's next phase: **operationalization through stronger national structures.** National committees should become active mechanisms for mobilizing parliamentarians, building cross-party consensus and converting AFPPD's universal priorities into policies and budgetary commitments.

His remarks therefore positioned the strength and functionality of national committees as central to AFPPD Global's ability to move from institutional development towards effective implementation.

"Get your national councils and committees in place, raring to go."
—Hon. Howard Lee Chuan How



Hon. Kamikawa Yoko

MP Japan | Chair of AFPPD

Executive Summary

Hon. Kamikawa Yoko characterized the AFPPD Annual Conference 2026 as a particularly meaningful gathering that opened **a new door to the future,** especially with the establishment of AFPPD's new office in Malaysia.

Drawing together the substantive discussions of the preceding two days, she highlighted six areas in relation to the **AFPPD Strategic Plan 2026–2029**: demographic dividend, care economy, climate change and vulnerable groups, digital transformation, national committee activities, and regional and interregional partnerships.

Her closing remarks emphasized continued collaboration, innovation, knowledge exchange and collective parliamentary responsibility in addressing increasingly complex population and development challenges.

Closing Statements

Hon. Kamikawa thanked delegates for their active participation, expertise and commitment throughout the two-day Conference. She stressed that AFPPD members share responsibility for carrying the organization's mission forward and should continue collaborating to develop innovative responses to increasingly difficult global challenges.

She reaffirmed the role of AFPPD Global in advancing the population and development agenda, strengthening parliamentary capacity and supporting global commitments, including the **ICPD Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Key Messages

- **Demographic Dividend:** Youth policies and programs should be strengthened by applying lessons, experiences and good practices shared across the region.
- **Care Economy**: Sustainable care systems should support vulnerable groups while enabling greater participation of women and young people in the labor force.
- **Climate Change and Vulnerable Groups:** Climate responses should address differentiated impacts on vulnerable populations and strengthen meaningful youth participation in climate decision-making and action.
- **Digital Transformation:** Technological innovation should be harnessed to address demographic challenges and create opportunities, including entrepreneurship, for young people and women.
- **National Committee Activities:** National committees remain important mechanisms for advancing AFPPD's mandate and ensuring effective implementation at country level.
- **Regional and Interregional Partnerships:** South-South cooperation and partnerships across Asia-Pacific, Africa and Arab regions should be strengthened, particularly as global fragmentation increases the importance of network-based cooperation.

Conference-Level Calls for Action

- **Translate the six highlighted areas into parliamentary action**, connecting Conference discussions with national policy, legislation and budgetary processes.
- **Strengthen AFPPD national committees** as mechanisms for implementation, knowledge exchange and sustained parliamentary engagement.
- **Promote integrated responses** to demographic change, care, climate resilience and digital transformation rather than addressing these issues in isolation.
- **Strengthen youth participation,** particularly in policymaking, climate action and emerging economic opportunities.
- **Deepen South-South and interregional cooperation** by using AFPPD's network to exchange experience and develop collaborative solutions to shared challenges.
- **Sustain parliamentary collaboration beyond the Conference,** particularly in addressing common policymaking and budgetary challenges.

Closing Commitments / Directions

Hon. Kamikawa's remarks established six principal directions for continued engagement under the themes she highlighted in relation to the AFPPD Strategic Plan 2026–2029:

- **Demographic Dividend:** Strengthen youth policies and programs and apply lessons and good practices shared across the region.
- **Care Economy:** Advance sustainable care systems that support vulnerable groups and facilitate the participation of women and young people in the labor force.
- **Climate Change and Vulnerable Groups:** Strengthen climate resilience while ensuring that vulnerable groups are protected and young people participate meaningfully in climate action.
- **Digital Transformation:** Promote responsible technological innovation and use digital platforms to address demographic challenges and expand opportunities.
- **National Committee Action:** Strengthen national committees as vehicles for implementing AFPPD's mandate at country level.
- **Regional and Interregional Partnerships:** Expand South-South cooperation and strengthen partnerships across Asia-Pacific and with Africa and Arab regions.

Looking ahead, Hon. Kamikawa referred to **2027 as AFPPD's 45th anniversary** and indicated plans for an international gathering bringing together participants from different regions. She also positioned the new AFPPD office in Malaysia as a shared institutional home and starting point for the organization's next phase.

"The more the world is fragmented, the more creative way we should work through our networks."
—Hon. Kamikawa Yoko



H.E. Dr. Chem Widhya

Secretary General, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)
Pre-recorded video message

Executive Summary

H.E. Dr. Chem Widhya congratulated AFPPD on the successful convening of the Conference and Malaysia on becoming the new permanent host of the AFPPD Secretariat. His closing intervention emphasized the importance of translating Conference discussions into **concrete parliamentary action.**

He highlighted the rapidly evolving challenges associated with ageing populations, changing family structures, the growing burden of care, youth development, gender equality and climate change. His central message was that parliamentarians have a distinctive responsibility to respond through their **legislative, budgetary and oversight functions,** supported by genuine whole-of-society partnerships.

Closing Statements

H.E. Dr. Chem noted that the country reports and discussions over the two days demonstrated both the progress achieved and the work still required across the region.

He emphasized that no single institution can respond adequately to demographic transformation and the growing demands placed on care systems. While parliamentarians have a unique responsibility to lead, sustainable solutions require coordinated engagement among parliaments, governments and wider society.

He expressed confidence that the commitments and collaborative spirit generated during the Conference would extend beyond the gathering and translate into concrete action within participating parliaments.

Key Messages

- Demographic transformation and changing care needs require **urgent and coordinated responses.**
- Parliamentarians have a distinctive responsibility to translate commitments into **legislation, budgets and effective oversight.**
- Laws should protect caregivers and respond to the needs of vulnerable populations.
- National budgets should adequately finance **resilient social protection systems.**
- Parliamentary oversight should ensure that commitments are implemented in practice.
- Policy responses should be i**nclusive, evidence-informed and responsive to people's needs.**
- Building a resilient care economy requires genuine **whole-of-society partnership.**

Conference-Level Calls for Action

- Use legislative authority to translate Conference aspirations into effective laws that protect caregivers and strengthen demographic resilience.
- Prioritize adequate budgetary resources for resilient care and social protection systems.
- Exercise robust parliamentary oversight to ensure that commitments are implemented and institutions remain accountable for results.
- Ground parliamentary decisions in evidence and people's needs, recognizing parliamentarians' accountability to the populations they represent.
- Build genuine whole-of-society partnerships involving ministries, experts, international organizations, civil society, youth advocates and other relevant stakeholders.

Closing Commitments / Directions

H.E. Dr. Chem's closing message established a practical direction for parliamentary follow-up centred on the three core functions of parliament: **legislation, budgeting and oversight.**

Parliamentarians were encouraged to translate the aspirations of the Conference into laws protecting caregivers, budgets supporting resilient social protection systems, and oversight that ensures commitments are honored in practice. At the same time, policymaking should remain inclusive, evidence-informed and responsive to the needs of the populations represented.

He further emphasized that resilient care systems cannot be developed through parliamentary action alone. Continued cooperation among **parliamentarians, ministries, experts, international organizations, civil society and youth advocates** should therefore form an integral part of implementation.

"As parliamentarians, we have a unique responsibility to lead this transformation."

—H.E. Dr. Chem Widhya

PART III — Preliminary Conference Synthesis



Preliminary Conference-Wide Findings - 13 themes

Drawing on the discussions, country experiences, policy perspectives and parliamentary interventions presented throughout the Conference, a number of interconnected findings emerged. These preliminary findings reflect areas of broad convergence across sessions and highlight the central role of parliamentarians in translating demographic evidence, social priorities and regional commitments into effective legislation, adequate financing, accountable governance and sustained national action.

1. Parliamentary Leadership, Governance and Accountability

Parliamentary leadership emerged as a central enabling factor across the Conference. Parliamentarians have a critical role in translating demographic and social priorities into legislation, national policies, budgetary allocations and effective oversight. Discussions emphasized that demographic resilience requires sustained political commitment extending beyond electoral cycles, supported by evidence-informed policymaking, cross-sectoral coordination and stronger accountability mechanisms.

The Conference also highlighted the value of parliamentary diplomacy and regional cooperation in advancing shared priorities, exchanging legislative experience and ensuring that population and development challenges remain prominent within national and regional policy agendas.

2. Care Economy as Social and Economic Infrastructure

The care economy was consistently recognized as essential social and economic infrastructure rather than solely a household or welfare responsibility. Investments in childcare, eldercare, healthcare, long-term care and other care services can contribute simultaneously to social protection, labor-force participation, gender equality, employment creation and economic resilience.

Discussions underscored the importance of recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work; improving the conditions, protection and professional recognition of paid care workers; and integrating care considerations across labor, health, social protection, gender and economic policies. Sustainable care systems therefore require coordinated legislation, public investment and institutional responsibility.

3. Demographic Resilience and Life-Course Policy Responses

Demographic change was presented not as a single challenge but as a set of interconnected transitions requiring differentiated national responses. Population ageing, declining fertility, youth population dynamics, migration, changing household structures and labour-market transformation affect countries differently and require policies grounded in reliable demographic evidence.

A life-course approach emerged as particularly important. Investments in health, education, decent work, social protection, family-supportive policies and care systems across different stages of life can strengthen the capacity of societies to adapt to demographic change while protecting individual dignity and wellbeing.

4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Gender equality was identified as fundamental to demographic resilience, inclusive development and sustainable economic participation. Persistent inequalities in unpaid care responsibilities, employment opportunities, income, leadership and access to services continue to constrain the full participation of women and girls.

Conference discussions reinforced the need to embed gender-responsive approaches across legislation, budgeting, care policies, social protection and economic planning. Women's leadership and meaningful participation in political and public decision-making were also

emphasized as essential to ensuring that policies respond to the realities and priorities of women and girls.

5. Youth, Human Capital and the Demographic Dividend

Young people were consistently recognized as partners and contributors to development rather than solely beneficiaries of policy. Realizing the demographic dividend requires sustained investment in quality education, relevant skills, health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, decent employment and meaningful participation in decision-making.

Particular attention was given to aligning education and technical and vocational training with emerging digital and green economies, keeping adolescent girls in school, preventing child marriage and early pregnancy, and ensuring that young people can transition successfully from education into productive and dignified employment.

6. **Population Ageing, Healthy Longevity and Vulnerable Populations**

Population ageing requires comprehensive policy responses extending beyond pensions and healthcare. Discussions emphasized healthy ageing, long-term care, income security, accessible communities, social participation and protection from neglect, exclusion and discrimination.

At the same time, demographic and social policies must remain attentive to populations facing heightened vulnerability, including persons with disabilities, migrants, displaced populations, people living in poverty and communities affected by climate-related and other crises. Inclusive policies should ensure that demographic transitions do not deepen existing inequalities or leave vulnerable groups behind.

7. Climate Change, Population Dynamics and Community Resilience

Climate change was recognized as increasingly interconnected with population dynamics, health, livelihoods, displacement, food security and social vulnerability. Its impacts are unevenly distributed and can intensify existing inequalities, particularly among women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, low-income communities and populations living in climate-vulnerable areas.

Building resilience therefore requires climate-responsive social policies, stronger disaster preparedness, resilient health and care systems and the meaningful participation of affected communities. Parliamentarians can strengthen these efforts through legislation, budget oversight and integration of population considerations into climate adaptation and disaster-risk-reduction frameworks.

8. Migration, Labor Mobility and Demographic Change

Migration and labor mobility were highlighted as important dimensions of demographic and economic transformation. Well-managed mobility can respond to labor-market needs, contribute to economic development and help countries navigate demographic imbalances.

At the same time, policies should protect the rights, dignity and welfare of migrant workers and their families, address vulnerabilities associated with migration and strengthen cooperation between countries of origin and destination. Migration policy should therefore be connected with labor-market planning, social protection, demographic analysis and regional cooperation.

9. Digitalization, Innovation and Evidence-Informed Policymaking

Digitalization and technological innovation offer significant opportunities to improve access to services, strengthen demographic intelligence and support more responsive public policy. Examples discussed across the Conference demonstrated the potential of digital health, e-health, improved data systems and technology-enabled service delivery to reach geographically dispersed, mobile and underserved populations.

However, digital transformation must remain inclusive and rights-based. Digital divides, affordability, accessibility, data protection and unequal technological capacity should be addressed so that innovation reduces rather than reinforces existing inequalities.

10. Poverty Eradication, Social Protection and Inclusive Development

Poverty eradication remained closely connected to nearly every major conference theme. Poverty shapes access to health, education, decent work, housing, care and social protection, while demographic and climate pressures can further increase household vulnerability.

Conference discussions therefore pointed towards integrated social protection systems that respond to risks across the life course and provide particular protection during periods of economic, demographic or environmental disruption. Policies should address both immediate vulnerability and the structural inequalities that perpetuate intergenerational poverty.

11. Sustainable Financing and Domestic Resource Mobilization

Ambitious demographic and social policies require sustainable and predictable financing. Fiscal constraints should not result in the neglect of long-term investments in human capital, care systems, health, education, social protection and vulnerable populations.

Discussions emphasized stronger domestic resource mobilization, more effective allocation of public resources, gender- and demographic-responsive budgeting, and improved parliamentary scrutiny of public expenditure. International cooperation and partnerships remain important, but sustainable implementation ultimately requires stronger national ownership and financing capacity.

12. Regional and Inter-Regional Parliamentary Cooperation

Many of the challenges addressed during the Conference—including ageing, migration, climate change, labor mobility, care, gender inequality and technological transformation—extend beyond national borders. Regional and inter-regional parliamentary cooperation therefore remains essential for exchanging legislative experience, sharing evidence and successful practices, and developing coordinated responses to common challenges.

The Conference reinforced the value of AFPPD as a platform for sustained parliamentary dialogue, peer learning, partnership-building and the translation of regional and global commitments into practical national action.

13. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Fertility

Discussions emphasized equitable access to quality SRH information and services, protection of reproductive rights and informed choice, and the importance of understanding changing fertility patterns within their specific social, economic and demographic contexts.

The conference highlighted the need for rights-based, evidence-informed and people-centered approaches that integrate SRHR and fertility considerations into health, gender equality, social protection and national development policies, while enabling individuals and families to make informed reproductive choices with dignity.

Overall Preliminary Synthesis

Across the Conference, discussions consistently demonstrated that care economy development and demographic resilience are deeply interconnected with gender equality, youth investment, healthy ageing, climate resilience, migration, poverty reduction, technological transformation and sustainable financing. These priorities cannot be addressed effectively through isolated sectoral interventions.

A consistent message across the Conference was therefore the need for integrated, evidence-informed and people-centred policy approaches, supported by effective governance and sustained parliamentary leadership. Parliamentarians occupy a particularly important position in this process through their legislative, budgetary, oversight and representative functions.

The preliminary conference-wide findings further suggest that demographic resilience should ultimately be understood as the capacity of societies and institutions to anticipate demographic change, adapt policies and systems accordingly, protect people throughout the life course, reduce inequalities and ensure that demographic transitions contribute to inclusive and sustainable development.

PART IV — APPENDIX

Appendix 1: ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION

Declaration on Climate Action, Planetary Resilience and Parliamentary Leadership

Preamble

The Declaration recognized that a **robust care economy and genuine demographic resilience are inseparable from the preservation of a safe, sustainable and livable planet for present and future generations.** It acknowledged climate change as an urgent global crisis whose impacts fall disproportionately on vulnerable people, countries and regions, including children, older persons, pregnant women, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, indigenous peoples, farmers, fisher-folk and rural women.

The Declaration further affirmed that protecting the planet is a **shared global responsibility grounded in equity, justice and collective action.** Against this backdrop, parliamentarians and partners recognized that responses to climate change must go beyond environmental policy alone and address its consequences for people, communities, care systems and demographic resilience.

Statement of Commitment

Through the Declaration, parliamentarians and partners expressed a collective commitment to translate the principles discussed during the Conference into **concrete parliamentary, legislative, budgetary and oversight action.**

The Declaration set out five principal commitments:

The delegates affirmed the following five commitments:

1. **Stand in Solidarity**
   Expressed deepest condolences and unwavering solidarity with the **people of Nepal following the recent devastating loss of life,** and affirmed continued support for affected communities as rescue, relief and recovery efforts proceed. The commitment underscored solidarity with populations confronting the human consequences of climate-related disasters and recognized the importance of collective support in responding to immediate humanitarian needs and strengthening recovery and resilience.

2. **Demand Equitable Climate Finance**
   Called for **adequate, predictable, accessible, timely and non-debt-creating climate finance**, accompanied by technical assistance and technology transfer for countries that have contributed least to climate change yet suffer its greatest impacts. The commitment emphasized the need for equitable international support to enable a just energy transition, strengthen climate adaptation, address loss and damage, and expand effective early-warning systems, particularly for countries and communities facing disproportionate climate risks.

3. **Reaffirm Global Commitments**
   Reaffirmed steadfast commitment to the **Paris Agreement** and pledged to strengthen, accelerate and effectively implement national climate commitments. The Declaration emphasized that existing international commitments must be translated into sustained national action, with parliamentarians contributing through legislation, budgetary decisions and oversight to support effective implementation and ensure that climate commitments deliver meaningful results.

4. **Champion Climate Justice**
   Committed to standing firmly for **climate justice**, upholding the principles of equity and **common but differentiated responsibilities**, while recognizing the unique and heightened vulnerabilities of **developing and mountainous nations and regions**. The commitment emphasized that climate responses should reflect differing levels of responsibility, exposure and capacity, and should ensure that countries and communities facing the greatest risks are adequately supported in building resilience and responding to climate impacts.

5. **Elevate Parliamentary Action**
   Committed to elevating **climate action, climate and digital resilience, and climate financing** among the highest parliamentary priorities and ensuring that these imperatives are swiftly translated into **binding legislation, dedicated national budgets, and measurable and accountable actions.** This commitment placed parliamentarians at the centre of implementation, emphasizing their legislative, budgetary and oversight responsibilities in transforming collective commitments into concrete national policies, adequately financed programmes and accountable outcomes.

These five commitments were complemented by a broader call for **governments, civil society, the private sector and international organizations** to join parliamentarians in advancing this agenda. The Declaration recognized that the intersection of the **care economy and climate action requires a holistic, whole-of-society approach,** with the shared objective of ensuring that no one is left behind in the transition towards a sustainable, equitable and resilient future.

Parliamentary Commitment and Follow-Up

Importantly, the Declaration extended beyond expressions of principle to establish an expectation for parliamentary follow-through. Delegates committed to disseminating the Declaration within their respective parliaments and constituencies and to actively integrating its principles into legislative agendas, oversight functions and budgetary approvals, with the objective of producing tangible and measurable impact.

In this respect, the Declaration served as a bridge between the deliberations of the two-day Conference and subsequent national-level action, placing parliamentarians at the centre of translating shared commitments into legislation, financing, accountability and implementation.

Appendix 2: AGENDA

The AFPPD Annual Conference

Parliamentary Leadership for the Future: An All-of-Society Approach to the Care Economy and Demographic Resilience

3-4 September, 2026
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Venue: Ballroom B, DoubleTree by Hilton KLCC

Online participation
Zoom link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86023114628?pwd=5n2JRATxhPqn9dx3ZKmdWgmLPJwxaF.1
Time: Sep 3, 2026 07:00 AM Kuala Lumpur
Meeting ID: 860 2311 4628 Passcode: 449936

Purpose of the conference:
The conference aims to build on issues related to the AFPPD's strategic pillars and examine policies adapted to address evolving demographic trends, strengthen resilience, and promote inclusive and sustainable development for all. It will promote dialog among members of parliaments across the Asia-Pacific and beyond on the advancement of ICPD PoA and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a particular attention to the four key pillars of AFPPD, with a purpose to achieve a further commitment to enhance the policy environment and mobilize financial resources.

2 September 2026 (Wednesday) **Arrival**	
	Registration & Free time
3 September 2026 (Thursday)	
08.30-09.00	Registration: Foyer, Ballroom B, DoubleTree by Hilton KLCC, 10th Floor
09.00-09.40	**OPENING CEREMONY**
09.00-09.40	MC: Dr. Usmonov Farrukh, Executive Director of AFPPD

	Welcoming remarks: • **H.E. Alexander Nanta Linggi**, Minister of Works, Malaysia [10 mins] • **Mr. Pio Smith**, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) a.i. [10 mins] • **Hon. Kamikawa Yoko,** MP Japan, Chair of AFPPD [10 mins] • **H.E. Dato Awang Bemee Awang Ali Basah,** President of Senate of Malaysia **[10 mins]**
09.40-10.10	Coffee break and group photo
10.10-11:10	**Session 1: Harnessing the Demographic Dividend: Opportunities, Challenges, and Policy Pathways** **Session Objective**: To review the gains and lessons learnt from the implementation of the youth policies and programs in the region; what is the reality of young people today? Chair: **Hon. Dr. Kolakanh Phommvong**, MP Lao PDR, Co-Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Investing in Youth • Regional review for the needs of young people in the Asia-Pacific Region – **Ms. Madusha Subashini Wickramaratne Dissanayake**, Regional Program and Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, UNFPA APRO [10 mins] • **Hon. Maria Gorumali Barreto,** MP Timor-Leste [10 mins] • **Ms. Tomoko Fukuda,** Regional Director, IPPF ESEAOR [10 mins] *Open Forum [30 mins]*
11.10-12.10	**Session 2: Strengthening the Care Economy for Sustainable Development** **Session Objective:** To identify and promote strategies for a sustainable care economy that links policies related to vulnerable group of societies. Chair: **Hon. Toshima Karki**, MP Nepal • Reducing challenges of NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and increasing youth and Women labor force participation **– Ms. Sai Jyothirmai Racherla, Deputy Executive Director, Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW) [**10 mins] • Migrant care workers and labor mobility – **Hon. Krisel Lagman**,**MP Philippines** [10 mins] • Strengthening the Care Economy for Sustainable Development - **Hon. Çigdem Erdoğan,** MP Turkiye [10 mins] *Open Forum [30 mins]*
12.10-13.20	Lunch
13.20-14.20	**Session 3: Climate Change and Vulnerable Groups: From Risk to Resilience** **Session Objective:** To build a common vision on impact of climate change to the population, especially for vulnerable groups such as youth, women and girls and elderly people.

	Chair: **Senator Datuk Wira Dr. Mohd Hata Ramli**, Malaysia ● Addressing impact of climate change on elderly people – **Hon. Syerleena Abdul Rashid,** MP Malaysia [10 mins] ● Climate change impact on education disruption of adolescent and girls and health consequences – **Dolores Devesi**, Director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific [10 mins] ● Young people on the frontline of climate change (including decision making) – **Hon. Sahibzada Sibghatullah**, MP Pakistan [10 mins] *Open Forum [30 mins]*
14.20-14.40	Coffee break
14.40-15.40	**Session 4: Digitalization and Innovation for Population Dynamics** **Session Objective:** To highlight good practices from member states in using digital innovation to address demographic challenges. Chair: **Hon. Tshering Penjor,** MP Bhutan ● Age restriction to use social media – Senator Hon. **Sue Lines**, President of Senate Australia**, online** [10 mins] ● Digitalization for decent youth employment **– Hon. Bolotbek Borbiev.** MP Kyrgyzstan [10 mins] ● Digital Transformation and Active Aging – **Hon. Le Phan Kham, MP Vietnam** [10 mins] *Open Forum [30 mins]*
16:00-18:00	**The AFPPD's 102nd ExCom meeting** (only for ExCom members) Jasmine Room, DoubleTree by KLCC, 10th Floor
DINNER RECEPTION HOSTED BY SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT OF MALAYSIA **18:30-20:30**	
4 September 2026 (Friday)	
9.00-09.50	**Session 5: Follow-up discussion on outcome of High-Level Ministerial and Parliamentary Session at Women Deliver 2026 Conference** Moderator: Dr. Usmonov Farrukh, Executive Director of AFPPD ● **Hon. Howard Lee Chuan How, MP Malaysia, Secretary General of AFPPD** [10 mins] ● **Hon. Lork Kheng, MP Cambodia, Vice-Chair of AFPPD:** [10 mins] ● **Hon. Carina Garland,** MP Australia, Co-Chair of APGPD (statement read by **Megan Connor,** Coordinator of APGPD): [10 mins] Q&A [20 mins]
09.50-10:50	**Session 6: Country reports** **Session Objective:** Each member state, according to its respective sub-regional affiliation, will be invited to present reports on how its national committee has been advancing AFPPD's four strategic pillars: gender equality and women's empowerment, investing in youth, climate change, and active ageing. Chair of each session shall make conclusion statement after end of each sub-session.

	Sub-session 6.1: Report by East and South East Asian states Chair**: Hon. Deepender Hooda, MP India, Vice-Chair of AFPPD** **Country 1: Prof. Keizo Takemi, Chair of APDA, former Minister of health, labor and welfare of Japan [7 mins]** **Country 2: Hon. Kim Nam-hee, MP Korea [7 mins]** **Country 3: Hon. Dr. Anara Naeem, MP Maldives** [7 mins] **Country 4: Hon. Hector Appuhamy, MP Sri Lanka** [7 mins] Q&A [20 mins]
10.50 – 11.10	**Coffee-break**
11.10 -12.00	**Session 6: Continue** **Sub-session 6.2: Report by South East Asia and Central Asian states** Chair**: Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva, MP Kyrgyzstan, Vice-Chair of AFPPD** **Country 1: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phudit Tejativaddhana, Expert of Senate, Thailand** [7 mins] **Country 2: Hon Sri Wulan Sutomo Jasmine, MP Indonesia** [7 mins] **Country 3: Hon. Sheralizoda Muhamadullo, MP Tajikistan** [7 mins] **Country 4: Hon. Ovekova Jenet, MP Turkmenistan** [7 mins] Q&A [20 mins]
12:00 -13:00	**Lunch**
13.00-14.00	**Session 7: Dialogue with Partners on Poverty Eradication - "getting ready for 60th Session of Commission on Population Development -Unpack and assess current regional trends that challenges the efforts to eradicate poverty** **Session Objective:** To enhance dialogue and collaboration between parliamentarians and national committees beyond the Asia-Pacific region in shaping inclusive and evidence-based policies, and to establish inter-regional cooperation and knowledge exchange among parliamentary partners. Moderator: **Ms. Gita Sen**, Expert, India ● **H.E. Amb. Jonibek Hikmat**, Chair for the 60th session of the UN Commission on Population and Development (CPD60), the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations (video message) [5 mins] ● **Hon. Dr. Abdel Hady Qasaby, MP Egypt, Representative from Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD)** [10 mins] ● **H.E. Dr. Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpuo**, Minister for Labour, Jobs, and Employment of Ghana; President of African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (APFPD) [10 mins] ● **Alexa Johns**, Executive Director, Asia Pacific Alliance (APA) [10 mins] *Open Forum [25 mins]*
14.00-14.30	**Signing MoU Ceremony** **Moderator: Hon Howard Lee Chuan How**, Secretary General of AFPPD - Between AFPPD and FAPPD - Between AFPPD and APFPD

	- Between AFPPD and IPPF ESEAOR - Between AFPPD and APDA
14.30-15.00	**CLOSING CEREMONY**
	Closing remarks: • **H.E. Dr. Chem Widhya, AIPA Secretary General** (video message) [5 mins] • **Hon. Kamikawa Yoko**, MP Japan, Chair of AFPPD [5 mins] • **Hon. Howard Lee Chuan How, MP Malaysia, Secretary General of AFPPD [5 mins]**
16:30-18:00	Visit to AFPPD's New Office and Official Inauguration: Cocktail Reception hosted by Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, MP Japan, Chair of AFPPD Delegates meet at the lobby of DoubleTree by Hilton KLCC at 15.50, bus departs at 16.00
5 September 2026 (Saturday) Departure	

Appendix 3: List of Participants

The AFPPD Annual Conference

Parliamentary Leadership for the Future: An All-of-Society Approach to the Care Economy and Demographic Resilience

3-4 September, 2026
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Venue: Ballroom B, DoubleTree by Hilton KLCC

Participants

	Name	Country	Position
1	Hon. Sue Lines	Australia	President of the Senate (online)
2	Ms. Megan Connor	Australia	Senior Advocacy Officer, Secretariat to the APGPD (online)
3	Hon. Tshering Penjor	Bhutan	MP
4	Hon. Lork Kheng	Cambodia	MP, Vice-chair of AFPPD
5	Ms. Mith Chanlinda	Cambodia	Officer of CAPPD
6	Hon. Dr. Abdul Rashid Hassan Pelpuo	Ghana	Minister of State for Special Initiatives, The African Parliamentarians Forum (FPA)
7	Hon. Dr. Abdel Hady Qasaby	Egypt	MP Egypt, member of FAPPD ExCom
8	Dr. Mohammed Al-Smadi	Jordan	FAPPD Secretary General (Jordan)
9	Hon. Deepender Hooda	India	MP
10	Mr. Manmohan Sharma	India	Executive Secretary of IAPPD
11	Hon Sri Wulan Sutomo	Indonesia	MP
12	Mr. Samidjo	Indonesia	Senior Program Manager IFPPD
13	Ms. Ermalena	Indonesia	Secretary of IFPPD
14	Hon. Kamikawa Yoko	Japan	MP, Chair of AFPPD
15	Mr. Nishitani Kosuke	Japan	Secretariat Officer

16	Mr. Yoshino Hideki	Japan	Police Escort
17	Prof. Takemi Keizo	Japan	Chair of APDA
18	Hon. Kim Nam Hee	Korea	MP
19	Mr. Hyunseok Lee	Korea	CPE International Cooperation Officer
20	Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva	Kyrgyzstan	MP, Vice-Chair of AFPPD
21	Hon. Bolotbek Borbiev	Kyrgyzstan	MP
22	Hon. Kolakanh Phommvong	Lao PDR	Standing member of the Social and Cultural Affairs Committee in the National Assembly of Lao PDR
23	Souphaphone Donesavanh	Lao PDR	Officer
24	Hon. Dr. Anara Naeem	Maldives	MP, Member of AFPPD's Executive Committee
25	Hon. Adam Shafeeq	Maldives	MP
26	Ms. Mariyam Waheed	Maldives	Foreign Relations Officer, People's Majlis Secretariat (Parliament of Maldives)
27	Hon. Dr. Toshima Karki	Nepal	MP
28	Ms. Anamika Rai	Nepal	Program Coordinator, NFPPD, Nepal
29	Hon. Sahibzada Sibghgtullah	Pakistan	MP
30	Mr. Syed Rahim Shah	Pakistan	Deputy Director, International Relations, National Assembly of Pakistan
31	Hon. Krisel Lagman	Philippines	MP, ExCom Member of AFPPD
32	Ms. Aurora O. Quilala	Philippines	Executive Director of PLCPD
33	Hon. Hector Appuhamy	Sri Lanka	MP, Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee of Active Ageing
34	Hon. Muhamadullo Sheralizoda	Tajikistan	MP, Chairman of the Committee on Energy, Industry, Construction and Communications;
35	Mr. Abdusamad Esankulov	Tajikistan	staff member of the Office of the Majlisi Namoyandagon
36	Hon. Prapon Tangsrikertikul	Thailand	Senator, ExCom member of AFPPD
37	Dr. Phudit Tejativaddhana	Thailand	Board-certified by the Medical Council of Thailand in Family Medicine, Preventive Medicine (Public Health), and Preventive

			Medicine (Lifestyle Medicine)
38	Hon. Çiğdem Erdoğan	Turkiye	MP, Chair of the Committee on Equality of Opportunity for Women and Men Grand National Assembly of Turkiye
39	Hon. Hasan Çilez	Turkiye	Member of Parliament
40	Hon. Gamze Tascier	Turkiye	Member of Parliament
41	Hon. Özgül Saki	Turkiye	Member of Parliament
42	Gökalp Izmir	Turkiye	Legislative Expert
43	İsmail Doganay	Turkiye	Legislative Expert
44	Dilek Keskin	Turkiye	Protocol Officer
45	Hon. Jennet Owekova	Turkmenistan	MP
46	Hon. Le Van Kham	Vietnam	MP
47	Mr. To Khuong Duy	Vietnam	Secretariat Officer
Pacific (DFAT)			
48	Hon. Maria Gorumali Barreto	Timor Leste	MP
49	Hon. Mateus da Cruz	Timor Leste	MP
Malaysia			
50	H.E. Tan Sri Dato Dr. Johari Abdul	Malaysia	Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia
51	H.E. Dato Awang Bemee Awang Ali Basah	Malaysia	President of Senate of Malaysia
52	H.E. Dato Sri Alexander Nanta Linggi	Malaysia	Minister of Works of Malaysia; Chair of AFPPD Malaysia
53	Hon. Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini binti Ahmad	Malaysia	Minister of Plantation and Commodities
54	Hon. Howard Lee How Chuan	Malaysia	Vice-chair of AFPPD Malaysia
55	Hon. Senator Datuk Wira Dr. Mohd Hatta bin Md Ramli	Malaysia	Senator, Dewan Negara
56	Hon. Dato’ Verdon bin Bahanda	Malaysia	MP
57	Hon. Puan Isnaraissah Munirah binti Majilis @ Fakharudy	Malaysia	MP

58	Hon. Dato' Mohd Isam bin Mohd Isa	Malaysia	MP
59	Hon. Tuan Haji Muhammad Islahuddin bin Abas	Malaysia	MP
60	Hon. Syerleena binti Abdul Rashid	Malaysia	MP
61	Hon. Dr. Richard Rapu @ Aman Anak Begri	Malaysia	MP
62	Mr. Prem Kumar	Malaysia	Protocol Officer
63	Ms. Mazidah Mohamed	Malaysia	Protocol Officer
		Malaysia	
Guest Speaker			
65	Prof. Gita Sen	India	Expert
66	Ms. Sai Jyothirmai Racherla	Malaysia	Deputy Executive Director, Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW)
67	Alexa Johns	Thailand	Executive Director, APA
Embassy			
68	H.E. Shikata Noriyuki	Japan	Ambassador-designate of Japan to Malaysia, Embassy of Japan in Malaysia
69	Mr. Yoshida Tomoaki	Japan	First Secretary/Health, Labour & Welfare Attache, Embassy of Japan in Malaysia
70	H.E. Mr. Ardasher S. Qodiri	Malaysia	Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Malaysia
71	H.E. Anvar Anarbaev	Malaysia	Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic in Malaysia
72	Mr. Toktobolot Zhumaliev	Malaysia	Secretary of the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in Malaysia
73		Malaysia	Turkmenistan Embassy officer
74		Malaysia	Turkiye Embassy officer
75		Malaysia	Egypt Embassy officer
Partner Organizations			
75	Mr. Pio Smith	UNFPA	UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director

			(Programme) a.i.
76	Ms. Ragaa Said	UNFPA	UNFPA
77	Dr. Julitta Elizabeth Onabanjo	UNFPA	UNFPA Representative for Malaysia
78	Ms. Madusha Dissanayake	UNFPA	Regional Programme Specialist at UNFPA APRO
79	Ms. Fukuda Tomoko	IPPF	Regional Director, IPPF East, South East Asia and Oceania Region (ESEAOR)
80	Mr. Gessen Rocas	IPPF	External Relations Director / Director of Strategic Partnerships, IPPF ESEAOR
81	Ms. Natassha Kaur	IPPF	Coordinates regional communications and media inquiries, IPPF ESEARO
82	Ms. Dolores Devesi	IPPF	Director, IPPF Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific
83	H.E. Jonibek Hikmat	CPD60	Chair of CPD60, Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the UN (video message)
84	H.E. Dr. Chem Widhya	AIPA	Secretary General, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) (Video message)
APDA/AFPPD			
85	Dr. Farrukh Usmonov	Malaysia	Executive Director of AFPPD
86	Ms. Hitomi Tsunekawa	Japan	Executive Director of APDA
87	Ms. Azwatul Hawa	Malaysia	AFPPD
88	Ms. Tan Zi Ying	Malaysia	AFPPD
Interpreters/Photographer/Videographer/Conference Supporters			
89	Haslinda Salleh	Malaysia	Rapporteur
90	Deric	Malaysia	Videographer
91	Lawrence	Malaysia	Photographer