

Asian and Arab Parliamentarians' Meeting and Study Visit on Population and Development – Part II

Investing in Youth: Toward Regional Development and Achievement of the SDGs

2-3 October 2018
Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain



GROUP PHOTO



*Honorable Delegates and Members of Parliament from Arab and Asian countries attending the **Asian and Arab Parliamentarians' Meeting and Study Visit on Population and Development – Part II** at the Shura Council Building, Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain on 2-3 October 2018.*

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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

AFPPD:	Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
AIPA:	ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
AOAD:	Asian Population and Development Association
APDA:	Asian Population and Development Association
ASEAN:	Association of South-East Asian Nations
AWRO:	Arab World Regional Office
BRHA:	Bahrain Family Planning Association
CFS:	Committee on World Food Security
EU:	European Union
FAO:	Food and Agricultural Organization
FAPPD:	Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development
FGM:	Female Genital Mutilation
FWCW:	Fourth World Conference on Women
GCC:	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
HIV/AIDS:	Human Immune Deficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HR:	Human Resource
ICPD:	International Conference on Population and Development
IPPF:	The International Planned Parenthood Federation
IPPF AWRO:	IPPF Arab World Regional Office
IPU:	Inter-Parliamentary Union
IVF:	In Vitro Fertilization
JFPF:	Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population
JTF:	Japan Trust Fund
MDGs:	Millennium Development Goals
MP:	Member of Parliament
OB/GYN:	Obstetrics and Gynecology
ODA:	Official Development Assistance
PLCPD:	Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development
QOL:	Quality of Life
RH:	Reproductive Health
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH:	Sexual Reproductive Health

SRHR:	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STIs:	Sexual Transmitted Infections
TAGG:	Transparency, Accountability and Good Governance
TFR:	Total Fertility Rate
TICAD:	Tokyo International Conference on African Development
UAE:	United Arab Emirates
UHC:	Universal Health Coverage
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA:	United Nations Population Fund
WHO:	World Health Organization

OPENING SESSION

Address of Organizer

Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko, MP Japan, Vice-Chair of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your participation in the Asian and Arab Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development - Part II "Investing in Youth: Toward Regional Development and Achievement of the SDGs".

Prior to the conference, I would like to say a few words on behalf of the organizers, Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP).

This conference is a continuation of the successful conference in Jordan last year that was held, for the first time, through Asia-Arab partnership in cooperation between APDA and the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD).

At last year's conference, we reaffirmed the principles underlying parliamentary activities on population and development, and identified challenges we face in our regions.

Based on such outcomes, the major theme for today's conference will be to discuss how we can capitalize on the youth population that has increased to unprecedented levels as a result of demographic transition in the Asia and Arab regions. Instead of making our youths an element of social instability, we can leverage them as an engine for sustainable development.

We will also be proposing concrete ideas on the effective use of the natural environment in the Arab region to contribute to food security and youth employment.

While these ideas may not seem to be directly linked to the issue of population, expanded youth employment and education programmes in the workplace can promote their acceptance of population programmes and have various other implications for bringing about improvements in the existing situation. We sincerely hope to work together with all of you to make these ideas into reality, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and build hope for the future.

Parliamentarian activities on population and development have made substantial gains, but at the same time, our activities are now at major crossroads.

Globally, many regional parliamentary forums on population and development are today unable to sufficiently fulfill their roles. There are several reasons for this. One of the

fundamental reasons is that after 40 years since our activities on population and development started, it is becoming difficult to share the underlying principles.

From the outset, parliamentary activities have had two major functions. The first is for parliamentarians to communicate to the people and the government the concept of development from an international viewpoint. The other is to listen to the voices of the people that we represent and communicate such voices to the government and international organizations.

In that respect, the role of parliamentarians is different from that of the government. For our activities to contribute to achieving sustainable development and solving the issue of population, we must, on one hand, work and cooperate with international organizations and, on the other, maintain our independence and take actions at our own responsibility and decision-making.

This is the principle we have always emphasized ever since the establishment of our activities. Without this principle, we cannot in a truly meaningful way support the activities of either the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) or the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

Ensuring this two-way interaction and fulfilling our accountability to the people lies at the heart of democracy and is a condition for achieving the SDGs.

We need to reaffirm this important principle and to make this principle known to the international community, in order to further promote our activities in solving the population issues and achieving sustainable development. At the same time, we parliamentarians will also need to consider how to address the issues of population and sustainable development as parties directly involved in these issues.

I am convinced of the successful outcome of this conference, and sincerely hope that our discussions will also be reflected on the international discussions at next year's 50th anniversary of UNFPA, the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, and G20 hosted by Japan. Lastly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Shura Council of Bahrain for the significant cooperation that you have extended to us.

Address

H.E. Hideki Ito, Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Bahrain

Distinguished participants, I would like to congratulate you on holding this conference here in Bahrain with the title *Asian and Arab Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development - Part II: Investing in Youth: Toward Regional Development and Achievement of the SDGs*, particularly in view of the fact that it follows the parliamentarians' meeting in Jordan last year.

Population issues are an integral part of the daily lives of us all. But no one can be told whether have a child or not. At the same time, sustainable development will never be successful without stability in population. I understand that this conference will focus on investment in youth, and I agree that the investment in the education, employment, welfare and insurance of young people are important for a better future of all our countries. Today, parliamentarians from many countries are meeting together to learn about the population problems of various countries in Asia and the Middle East. I am sure your experience will give policy insights that will be of great value to all of us.

Your Excellencies, this conference is part of a wide-ranging programme of the Japan Trust Fund (JTF), which the Japanese government is financing to aid UNFPA. JTF was launched after the ICPD+5 parliamentary meeting held in The Hague, the Netherlands, in 1999, where further collaboration among parliamentarians in the area of population and development was agreed.

Shortly after World War II, as we recovered from the ashes while striving for economic and social development, Japan shifted its demographic structure from a high-birth and high-mortality-rate model to a low-birth and low-mortality-rate model. Our political leaders saw the importance of sharing Japan's experience with developing countries to promote stable populations and sustainable development with better livelihoods for their peoples. That was how parliamentarians' activities tackling population and development started.

The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) was established in 1974, the world's first non-partisan organization to focus on population and development, headed by Nobusuke Kishi, the grandfather of our current Prime Minister and a former Prime Minister himself, together with former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda. Since then we have seen the establishment of other parliamentary fora in different regions of the world.

The agenda was closely reflected in the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015, as both focused on maintaining the dignity of the individual within the finite environment that is the Earth. We should be proud of the fact that parliamentarians' engagement over the last 40 years led the way for the SDGs, where politics and government services come together in common cause.

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) as an organizer of this conference also serves as the secretariat of JFPF. It not only promotes parliamentary cross-regional collaboration with JTF, but also contributed through the efforts of participating parliamentarians to the amendment of the constitution in Kenya and to passing laws in Uganda and Zambia while promoting transparency, accountability and good governance.

The Japanese Government recognizes that all countries have unique requirements and is pleased to know that JTF through UNFPA can assist and facilitate grass-roots solutions led by local players in addressing population challenges so as to make development sustainable. We hope this conference will strengthen relationships across the Arab and Asian regions by sharing your experience, confident that discussion with fellow parliamentarians will be productive and make positive contributions to our common goals that are the SDGs. That will be the primary objective of the Japanese Government's JTF by contributing to UNFPA.

I wish you a great success in this conference. Thank you.

Opening Statement

Hon. Juma Al Kaabi, MP Bahrain

In the name of Allah, most merciful, most gracious, dearest guests, good morning to you all.

It is our deep pleasure and appreciation to participate in the Asian and Arab Parliamentarians' Meeting and Study Visit on Population and Development - Part II "*Investing in Youth: Toward Regional Development and Achievement of the SDGs*". We would like to welcome our brothers and sisters and our friends to their second country, the Kingdom of Bahrain, to exchange experiences and experiments in the field of *Investing in Youth: Toward Regional Development and Achievement of the SDGs*. We would also like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD) and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) for their efforts toward enhancing the quality of life in the Arab and Asian regions and to increase the level of awareness regarding population and development issues for all the Arab parliamentarians.

The youth of today are the main pillars of advancement for societies and its development. This conference is an important platform to understand the community and people considering that the most important factor in the advancement of nations is their power and vitality. Also, understanding activities for enabling the effective changes would benefit the society.

The informative projects of His Majesty Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain enabled all of the youth to have complete opportunities to contribute in serving the country and to participate in the public life, to take the decisions, and also to create a democratic atmosphere for youth, and gain their rights in freedom of speech and freedom of

participation in the institutions of civil community, by the creation and establishment of a new categorization for the civil societies and associations since 2002.

A key institution was established with its main goals to help the youth who are looking for jobs and to qualify them to hold positions and to invest in their future. In continuation of the country's efforts in enabling and the empowerment of youth, His Majesty Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa announced the King Hamad Youth Empowerment Award, which is the first of its kind on the international level, and which was also announced in the opening ceremony of the 6th ECOSOC Youth Forum at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in January 2017.

We would like to shed some light on the efforts of His Excellency Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and the First Deputy Prime Minister, in supporting youth by launching the Crown Prince scholarship programme since 1999 and providing scholarship on an annual basis for the graduates of excellence in order to engage in wider universities. We would also like to shed some light on the programme which was designed for the enabling and the empowerment of the national cadres to train them at a very high level in research, analysis and leadership.

Also, in this regard, we would like to highlight the efforts of His Excellency Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty's representative for charity and youth affairs, and the Chair of the Bahrain Olympic Committee because he is considered the role model for all the Bahraini youth in that he combined the administrative leadership and also the representation in the main field. Perhaps the accomplishments of Shaikh Nasser show the empowerment of the Bahraini youth and can take His Excellency as a role model for all the youth.

Considering all the sport, cultural, human, and scientific initiatives which aim at raising the awareness among all the Bahraini youth—enabling them to have a real, actual and effective image of how the Bahraini youth should be.

We would also like to note the efforts of His Excellency Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa for all the activities and programmes that he undertook in sport, culture and science, and also to encourage the youth towards creativity and innovation and to show their capabilities, of course.

Our dearest guests, I would like to say that the legislative authority has a main role in supporting the youth by the issuance of many laws and regulations. These laws and regulations guarantee the rights of youths in different fields and in practicing in their political rights, as issued in decree number 36 in 2006, and also decree number 14 and decree number 35 in 2002, regarding the right to elect starting from age 21.

Also, on the economic level, an insurance system against unemployment was issued by decree number 78 in 2006 to provide financial support through the unemployment period.

Believing in the importance of education, a decree was issued, number 27, in 2005, which assures that education is free in all the schools of the Kingdom of Bahrain considering it a

right for all citizens. A decree was issued in 2005, decree number 3, about the higher education which aims at enabling everyone to obtain the opportunity to study and specialize in every field.

On the social level, a law was issued, number 15 in 2007, considering the drugs, which aims at setting plans and programmes to raise the awareness and the precautions and providing the right treatment to the addicts and to prevent them from getting into deeper problems.

Our Dearest Guests, all these achievements in the youth field in the Kingdom of Bahrain are considered the fruit of the support and huge appreciation and care by the wise leadership and trust and competence in the importance of embracing the youth in all aspects; the importance of engaging them in making decisions and developing their capabilities, and adding the trust of the legislative authority by the role of the youth in the advancement of the nation.

The legislative authority is always looking towards the importance of encouraging the youth and to gather all their powers and capabilities to open the horizons wide in front of them to achieve all their activities and to overcome the obstacles, and to show their goals in the community. Also, to encourage them to provide their own creative and innovative thoughts to achieve the highest benefit of the country, and we would like to renew our trust in the youth of the Arab world as well as the youth of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Thank you very much.

Address of Host Organization

Hon. Marwan Al-Hmoud, MP Jordan, Secretary General of FAPPD

In the name of God, Your Excellencies and Distinguished Guests, God have peace and mercy be upon all of you.

In the beginning I would like to thank profusely the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Majesty the King, the Government and the people, and His Excellency Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chair of Bahrain Shura Council, for hosting this important event on the level of the Arab region specifically and the world as a whole.

Your Excellencies, the Asian and Arab parliamentarians who have taken the hardships of travelling to the Kingdom of Bahrain from all different countries of the world, who share and carry the responsibility towards the population and sustainable development issues, pray to God that our meeting will achieve its sought goals.

We are on the first steps of a grand development stage which is new at the level of the world. The population issue in general and the youth issue as a special issue, takes a very large and important space, especially in the last few years due to voluntary population movement and

also issues that are beyond the control of the Arab region. Therefore, these issues—which are population and sustainable development—are in the forefront of the legislative authorities, especially the issues of youth that have become the priority of the Arab legislation as a whole.

The Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD) was launched in a meeting attended by all honorable parliamentarians that were heads of the population and development committees to be the official international umbrella for all parliamentarians concerned about the issues of population and development in the legislative councils, Shura, and legislative Arabic committees. I would like to say that now there are 18 Arab legislative councils that are members of the Forum.

As the General Secretariat has had a number of parliamentarian meetings about the Arabic population and development issues in Cairo, Tunis, Beirut, and Casablanca, and the discussions have revolved around the main components of the population issues and, also, its relationship with sustainable development.

I would like to confirm that you are the leaders of your people and that the nations are keeping their big hope in terms of you solving the issues of population and development and youth on the level of the Arab legislature. It is my hope that the conference will bring about fruitful and meaningful outcomes to fulfill such expectations.

SESSION 1: Population and the SDGs

Session Chair: Hon. Datuk Aaron Ago Anak Dagang, MP Malaysia

Population and the SDGs

Hon. Nadimul Haque, MP India

It is my privilege to speak at this conference. We all know about Bahrain's success story in socio-economic areas such as health and education. They have also attained considerable success in ensuring youth participation and in empowering women. But there needs to be a proliferation of such stories emanating from other countries as well. Without their success, Bahrain's success story will become meaningless. It is imperative that other countries or the human beings representing these nations follow suit, for the future generations to come.

This is where the Asian nations can be at the forefront. And we have to be at the forefront, because if Asia does not succeed, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs will not succeed. And the one issue, which affects almost every one of us in this continent, and which has the potential to hinder the progress of the SDGs, is population growth.

The world's population has crossed over the mark of 7 billion at the start of this decade, and the United Nations Population Division projects that, with "medium variant" fertility rates, this figure could reach 9.3 billion by 2050 and more than 10 billion by the end of the century. With only a small increase in fertility, especially in the more populous countries, the global population could reach as high as 10.6 billion people by 2050 and more than 15 billion in 2100.

Meeting the needs of this growing population can prove to be quite difficult for the nations. There is no harm in population growth but it should be on par with that particular nation's resource capability and productivity. If that is not the case, then it may lead to a multitude of problems such as lack of access to resources, knowledge and health services. It can lead to resource depletion, inequality, unsustainable cities and communities, irresponsible consumption and production, climate change, conflict, erosion in the quality of life on land and water and so on. In a way, it affects all the SDGs either directly or indirectly.

After all, it is the human beings that affect the SDGs, positively or adversely. It has a significant influence on sustainable development. Meeting the needs of this growing population, while ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources, is the paramount challenge confronting humankind today. The acknowledgement of the influence of population dynamics in the SDGs was a welcome step in this regard. But acknowledgement is not enough; effective steps must be taken as time is running fast. Policies for addressing population dynamics and realizing their impact needs at least 10 years. And that is approximately the time we are left with, for achieving the SDGs.

All is not gloom though. Change is possible through a set of policies which respect human rights and freedoms and contribute to a reduction in fertility, providing social security, notable access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care, education beyond the primary level, and the empowerment of women. Policies such as these expand individual choices, capabilities and opportunities, which can gradually shape population trends to achieve population levels necessary for sustainable resource use and sound social and economic development.

Evidence shows that ensuring universal access to reproductive health (RH) and family planning services, ensuring enrolment in primary education, especially among girls, and achieving gender equality in secondary and higher education, the labour force, and in political processes not only reduces the average number of children born per woman, but it also improves human wellbeing and helps build human capital.

Also, families with small numbers of children are less likely to fall into poverty, and that they take less time to rise out of it when they do. This is, in part, because families with fewer children have a higher proportion of members that are potentially economically active, due to better utilisation and equitable distribution of available resources and can be mobilized at times of need. Families with fewer children can also invest more in human capital formation per child, particularly in education and healthcare.

In the least developed countries, wherein in 2010 the average fertility rate was 4.4 significantly above the fertility replacement level of 2.1 and compared to 2.5 in other developing countries having fewer children may thus mean the difference between living in poverty or rising above it.

On a macro demographic level, declining fertility, in addition to reducing population growth, eventually produces fewer children relative to the working age population, thereby reducing the number of dependents and increasing the share of the potential labour force. If a country has a “youth bulge” – a large youth population with few dependents it may reap the benefits of a demographic dividend: large populations of working age individuals, if fully employed in productive activities, can lead to increased average wages and significant growth in GDP.

When accompanied by development-oriented social and economic policies, this demographic bonus gives rise to a unique opportunity for increasing investments in health, education, infrastructure and environmental protection, and has been shown to help propel countries out of poverty. The eventual slower growth in the number of young people also eases demand for jobs, education and healthcare services for the next generation, and allows for necessary investments in a future that is projected to have a higher proportion of older persons, as the large youth population ages.

But demographic dividend can also transform into a curse. The growth benefit of a demographic dividend is not automatic. A lot depends on whether the bulge in the working

population can be trained with the requisite skills demanded in the market, and enough jobs created to employ a large number of people who will join the labour force every year.

There is mounting concern that future growth could turn out to be jobless due to de-industrialization, de-globalization, and the fourth industrial revolution and technological progress. While digital technologies may enable the creation of new products and more productive jobs, they may also substitute existing jobs. Lack of jobs combined with a demographic dividend will increase the share of the population that is dependent on the working population. This will increase the economic insecurity of the elderly, as there will be fewer people generating wealth.

This challenge of turning demographic dividend into an opportunity is a part of various other challenges that nations currently face or will face in the immediate future, during the way of achieving SDGs, if population growth is not at par with a country's resources and capability. Therefore, demographic dividend without investments in human capital is a wasted development opportunity, and it will further widen economic and social gaps, instead of narrowing them.

Emphasis on health care, education and gender equality is therefore a must to address the population-related issues. Otherwise the growing population will continue to put a dent on the physical and social infrastructure of the nation. India continues to face a dent in resources of all forms because of this and has attached a very high priority to the 2030 Agenda. In fact, the goals adopted by the different countries under the United Nations as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), were already being implemented by us through our various schemes.

This is because of the fact that the objectives driving these SDGs mirror that of the socio-economic objectives enshrined in the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) and other provisions enshrined in the Indian Constitution. India realizes that it has an important role to play in the 2030 Agenda, and has taken some concrete steps in this regard.

The Government has appointed NITI Aayog as the supervising agency for the SDGs to improve India's global performance. NITI Aayog is working with the nodal departments of the Ministries concerned for mapping of the SDGs with the different schemes. It collects and stores such data and works in tandem with the Union and the State Governments and emphasizes on the sharing of knowledge and best practices for the successful implementation of the SDGs.

The Government has adopted a rights-based approach when it comes to policies such as the Right to Education, Right to Information, Right to Guaranteed Wage Employment, Right to Food Security etc, that have expanded individual choices and opportunities necessary for sustainable socio and economic development. The Government has succeeded on many fronts.

From halving the population below the poverty line and bringing them into the banking system to lowering of mortality rates and bringing a behavioural change towards ill effects of open defecation, the Government is in pursuit of improving the lives of the underserved. However, this trend needs to be sustained and uniform in order to achieve their respective SDGs.

These investments in human capital become even more necessary, given the fact India has one of the youngest populations in an ageing world. By 2020, the median age in India will be just 28, compared to 37 in China and the U.S., 45 in Western Europe, and 49 in Japan.

Demographics can change the pace and pattern of economic growth. While China's spectacular growth has already benefited from a demographic dividend, India is yet to do so. Having said that, India has started to tap into its demographic dividend and preparing the country for the future by investing in the human capital through skills. Many of them are undergoing skill training in various skill centres, hoping for a better future. The next step for them would be to train them in digital and other soft skills, which will make them better equipped to enter the job market and usher in economic growth both for themselves and the country. Whether the demographic dividend promotes growth or transforms into a curse depends on the trajectory of our investments in human capital across all sectors.

India is forging partnerships with various multinational agencies and organisations for the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, we are leveraging the resources of the private sector, who are not far behind in this endeavour, as well. The sector is spending big on health care, education and other sectors through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives with a spend of more than Rs 27,000 Crores (about US\$3.8 billion) in the last three years. They are complementing the Government's efforts through their skills and capital and are impacting lives of many by mapping their CSR initiatives with the SDGs. Their contribution and that of the multinational agencies is helping the country in the 2030 Agenda, block by block.

Though India has made some gains in human development, some challenges still remain, including big barriers to secondary schooling, basic health-care systems, low-quality public services, and gender discrimination. While some schemes need more awareness and outlay, others need better targeting of beneficiaries. Here, the Government of India can take a cue from different state governments with regards to schemes for girls and women to promote education by giving them bicycles and scholarships to promoting better family planning and maternal health care by providing monetary benefits and better health care services.

For this, the political will to work together and the convergence of efforts is the need of the hour, not only between governments, but also between various agencies and organisations as well, cutting across country lines. We as citizens should also contribute through internalizing behavioural changes that will be mutually beneficial for us, as after all, it is we who are the principal stakeholders of this planet, apart from the natural life and creatures. Until this happens, then I am afraid that we might miss the bus on this one as well.

UHC and SRHR

Ms. Shamaa Aldosari, Deputy Director of the Bahrain Family Planning Association (BRHA), Bahrain

In the name of God peace be upon you. We would like to welcome you here.

I am very glad to be with you here today. This presentation is going to be a kind of general one not only for Bahrain but also on an international level. I am going to talk about the universal health coverage (UHC). As the WHO states that when all people are entitled to health services they need to enhance the health and condition of the population.

In order to have a UHC, there should be a strong health system that is of high quality to cover all health needs, where there should be a full group of health services that cover all the necessities, and it will promote health and preventative medical services, treatment, rehabilitation and all end care. There is also the necessity to take care of terminal cases and chronic diseases.

When we talk about full health coverage, it would be through the full reach of information and basic health services of high quality, in general. But, when we talk about Bahrain, these services are all provided for free whether they are primary or secondary health services.

When we talk about the concepts of UHC, we have to be mindful of some facts.. For example, UHC is not only about funding. It has to actually include all the different aspects of health services, such as providing the health necessities and providing medications, as well as medical staff necessary to provide such services.

It should also be appropriate for the different population groups. For example, in Bahrain we have more than 24 health centers all over the country , which makes it easy for any patient to reach or access them. This provides all sorts of health services starting from treatment to other types of services, going to rehabilitation, etc. UHC also has fairness and integration for all groups of the population.

When we talk about the concept of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), it is one of the human rights of any person. According to the WHO definition, all people have the right to receive SRHR to meet their needs.

In the basic health services package, there should be full insurance to guarantee all the population will receive all sorts of services including SRH services when it comes to the mother care, newborn children, and other health services for adolescents — starting from the beginning of life cycle with the mother being pregnant with the fetus, all the way until she gives birth and provides childcare, and special services are given to the adolescents. Again, there should be other services for preventing pregnancy under certain circumstances. There are also issues of communicable diseases, infertility, and other conditions.

It is very clear that it is very important to give full UHC in this area in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the provision of all these services, including SRHR. This should be part of the achievement of the Bahrain Vision 2030. The equality between both genders is also very much related to different aspects in that area.

Why do we say that SRHR is part of UHC? The UHC is very important because it is part of the SDGs and not having SRHR covered will definitely affect the SDGs. We believe that fairness and equality of opportunities in every way is a substantial element in the UHC.

There are many social determinants that we have to work with such as bad practices including child marriages, forced marriages, FGMs, and also gender discrimination. Sexual education is very important, while taking into consideration the social determinants, as it will help all youth to be able to have a positive and more productive life in the future. This would be an in-school and out-of-school type of education. Especially, when it comes to issues of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), of which HIV/AIDS is one. Therefore, in health centers, we have a special section for health awareness where they can go to and ask any questions and receive all sorts of information and services.

It is also very important to deal with the issues of what we call stigma, discrimination and inequality. In Bahrain, we have all the necessary laws that are implemented through the services of the Ministry of Health.

In order to achieve positive results by promoting SRHR, equality and fairness and other important aspects need to be present. The access to all different health services is achieving UHC. In order to access these health services and health rights, we need certain laws and legislation to assure the provision of these different services for all types of population.

There was a law that the Shura Council has passed about the premarital test that needs to be done. The Ministry of Health implemented and facilitated it to all the populations in all health and medical facilities.

All the governmental institutions should take into consideration the law and regulations and the specified budget to highlight and define all the healthcare services in these regards.

The facilities and healthcare services should be in line with the medical ethics, sensitive for the social type, friendly to the youth, and should respect the secrecy and confidentiality of the type of information provided, for example, for AIDS patients and how people are treating them.

The main procedure is to highlight the priorities of SRHR as part of the UHC and include them in the strategic framework of the UHC, for example the national health insurance. They need effective accountability and should be integrated with regulated follow-ups in the programmes of UHC. A number of indicators should be provided to assess whether women can access high-quality SRH information and services.

It is very important for countries to measure the advancement towards achieving the UHC. Considering that each country has its own context and is unique, a framework, for example, sometimes could focus on the indicators and measurements in different fields. It is very beneficial to set a global or international framework to monitor the advancement towards achieving UHC so that results can be compared across all borders and at all times. Of course, this should be issued by WHO.

We conclude from this that the SDGs offer a very important opportunity to achieve the advancement of UHC, which supports the complete achievement for SRHR. At the same time, it is important to recognize SRHR as a main factor to achieve UHC, which will advance both aspects. I thank you so much for listening to this presentation.

Achieving Universal Access to Reproductive Health and Promotion for Social Stability

Hon. Dr. Sahar Qawasmi, MP Palestine, Vice-Chair of FAPPD

I would like to thank you for this great welcome. I would like to thank the King, the Shura Council, the Government and the people of Bahrain for inviting us to this event. I would also like to thank the organizers from Japan and from UNFPA.

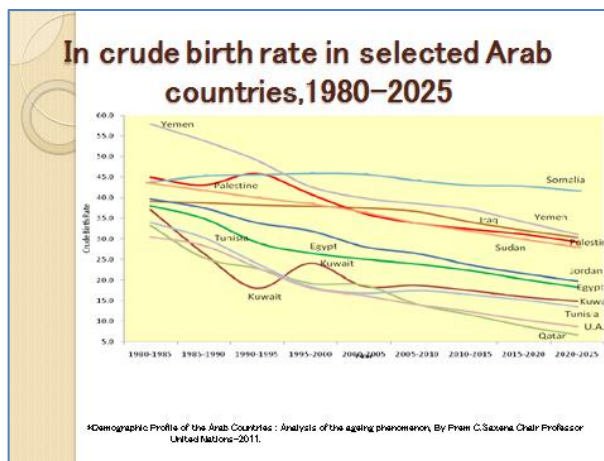
First, I would like to talk about reproductive health (RH). This definition of the Human Reproduction Programme (HRP) was introduced to the United Nations in 1972. The progress started in the Cairo Conference (International Conference on Population and Development: ICPD) in 1994, 1995 Beijing Conference (Fourth World Conference on Women: FWCW), and then onwards to the MDGs, and finally, the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs in 2015. The 2030 Agenda and SDGs started being implemented on 1 January 2016.

The 17 SDGs are there to have the collaborative work and effort to go out of the state of violence and fighting into a more peaceful state of cooperation where there will be peace and development.

This whole relationship can never go on unless these 17 Goals are achieved, one after the other. We have participated in the writing of these goals. It was an achievement for all those who have actually shared and participated in writing and working on implementing.

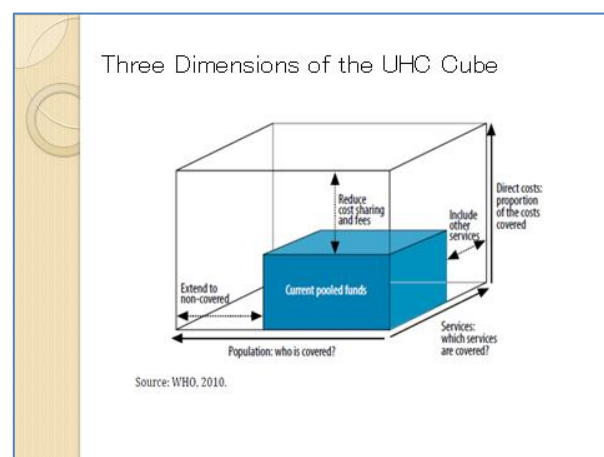
I am going to talk about the crude birth rates—the number of live births per 1,000 midyear population. For example, in Somalia, there is a war and the level of births is very high. The curve that is red for Palestine, you will see that curve has actually increased, especially in the first intifada, or what we would call the Palestinian uprising. It was at wartime when the birthrate increased. Another war was the Kuwait war, where there was another increase.

I do not believe that the laws and concepts that are being implemented at war are the same as those implemented in peace. There will always be a change. Especially, when we talk about the demographic trends. When people feel a threat to their being, there will be more importance in procreation. Also family planning commodities may not be available in wartime.



There is a correlation between the war and births. In addition, when it is wartime, there is poverty and violation of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women. Since these issues are closely linked to the SDGs, it is important to understand these linkages so that we can work towards addressing them.

My colleague has spoken about UHC. When we talk about that, I have put it in a cube. We actually have to expand the sections that are promoting the SDGs, while trying to decrease the direct cost of health services for the individual. Sometimes, individuals have to pay more than 20% of their income to pay for health services, which is a catastrophe. This will definitely impact the individuals' access to health services.



For the SDGs, we have three main goals that are related to the SRH. The Goal 3 is about health, Goal 4 is about education, and Goal 5 is about gender equality. These three goals are definitely related to SRH.

Speaking about the labor force, the demographic window is a special condition that comes from the workforce in that society. The higher the rate is, the quicker the nation will reach an economic quantum leap. Therefore, there is a demographic window that we have to take advantage of. For example, we have to pay extra attention to the women between the age of 15 and 49.

When we talk about RH, men are also important in the process. And it is very important to look at their sexual and reproductive needs. It is not something we should feel ashamed of talking about. It is important for the wellbeing and the survival of the human race.

There was a study in UNDP which said that, if we continue at this birth rate, we will have 19 million unemployed people in this region. Even before the wars, the indicators were even

more severe and alarming. Therefore, it is very important to prevent wars and stabilize the population.

Sometimes, we hear that in many countries there are more women than men in terms of ratio. However, if you see the map, you will see that in the Arab world, there are more men than women, just the other way around.

The 2030 Agenda and SDGs adopted several far-reaching international agreements in support of universal access to SRH. For instance, SDG Target 3.1 aims to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70



per 100,000 live births by 2030. Also, Target 3.7 is to ensure universal access to SRH care services, including family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes by 2030. This is because of the ICPD in Cairo and the following important meeting that helped increase awareness of these issues.

There were a lot of laws that were issued and implemented in order to stop, for example, early and forced marriages and other bad practices. There are also laws for the prevention of child abuse and violence against children. These topics are also inclusive of SRH. The 16 thematic areas on the list as shown on the screen—family planning, contraception, maternal health, fertility care, and so forth — are essential. IVF services are also important because it is part of human rights.

The list also includes: eradicating violence against women, taking care of adolescent SRHR, and abolishing female genital mutilation practices (FGM) in certain countries. Therefore, the services should reach all sections of the population in order to achieve the SDGs.

This is again about abortions. About 25 million unsafe abortions take place each year worldwide, and this is nearly half of all abortions worldwide. Abortion-related deaths account for 7.9% of all maternal deaths. I studied in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Palestine, and there are no laws that control or regulate abortion. Therefore, there are cases when we have to choose abortion, but we, of course, follow certain medical cases. These safe practices are done when conducting abortions but there is no real law that regulates this.

For STIs, there are estimated 357 million new cases of four curable STIs every year among people aged 15-49 years, which are: Chlamydia trachomatis (131 million), Neisseria gonorrhoeae (78 million), Treponema pallidum (6 million) and Trichomonas vaginalis (142

million). The issues of SRH are human issues that need to be addressed through education to create awareness in the population.

For violence against women, it is estimated that worldwide about 1 woman in every 3 has experienced whether physical or sexual violence. This is definitely an unacceptable phenomenon. There are about 200 million women who are suffering from circumcision on the women's genitals. We have to work with support of the legislative and religious authorities in our country in order to eradicate this inhumane practice.

When it comes to migration, currently there exist over 59.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. When we talk about women, there are a lot of women who are in that range who are actively reproductive. There are a lot of migrants who have no access to SRH services. Therefore, it requires all the collaborative work of all the different government entities and human rights organizations in order to provide them with necessary health services.

When we talk about maternal and child mortality in relation to SRH, in 2014 maternal mortality rate (due to pregnancy, childbirth and puerperal complications) was 24.7 per 100,000 live births. There is so much work and efforts taking place. It was 38.0 in 2009, so we can see that there has been progress.

For the infant mortality rate, those under the age of one, there were 10.7 deaths per 1,000 live births. There has been a gradual decrease, compared to 31.7 in 1992. The percentage of pregnant women receiving antenatal care (at least 4 visits) was 95.5%, and the percentage of unmet need for family planning methods was 10.9%.

Despite all the difficulties and challenges that we are going through, still the level of services given out to the Palestinians is at a very high rate and we are very proud of that. This has to do with the Palestinian health system. We, working in the Parliament, can work to change many issuers.

In Tunisia, when they decided to change the laws that were to the benefit of women, they could not do that because there were powers that rejected any change that were pro-woman. Now, 10% of the country's budget goes to health in general. At the same time, we are looking for a special budget for the area of SRH. We have so much to be done. The role of women is very important and we are partners in the efforts to achieve the SDGs. Therefore, if you do not give women, especially the youth, the opportunity to develop themselves, it will affect the window of opportunity of the country and you will not achieve the demographic bonus. And you will not achieve the SDGs if we do not give women the opportunity to develop themselves. Thank you.

Population and the SDGs

Hon. Dr. Toshiko Abe, MP Japan, Deputy Executive Director of JPPF

It is an honor for me to speak at this presentation, especially in Bahrain, where this meeting is significant of Middle East peace. Because every presenter has a great presentation, let me make my long story shorter.

Investment in youth is creating our future of our own countries. It is predicted that the change of demographic composition will have significant economic, social and political impact on the region economies in the medium and long terms. The consequences will be the increasing burden of medical welfare costs and the resulting impact on economic growth and social stability. We need to focus on the youth and investing in the youth in order to achieve the SDGs.

There are many countries where safety nets of social and economic services for the children are not universally available. The children are often among the most vulnerable to health threats. Furthermore, those children in society add new layers of challenges for achieving, not only health objectives of the SDGs, but other goals as well such as work, gender, housing and infrastructure.

A comprehensive approach that ensures healthy life expectancy and sound and healthy growth of young children is imperative to building resilient and sustainable economies in the region.

Given that complex multi-phase challenge of promoting the issue of population, all stakeholders in society, for example, parliamentarians, various levels of national and local governments, the business sector, health sector and civil society, have to contribute their resources and expertise in a well-coordinated way.

To that end, cooperating between public and private sectors, including civil society, is crucial in introducing comparative innovating approaches in technology to address challenges ahead. This meeting brings together many countries facing these common challenges of the SDGs. It offers an ideal platform to promote dialogue and collective action to form the policy frameworks.

Currently, we face a complex context of political situations and many regional challenges in the Korean Peninsula, Iraq, the Middle East, Asia and Europe. Such issues include security threats such as international terrorism and the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction, and global threats such as climate change and infectious diseases. It is important for us to meet and exchange opinions; face-to-face discussions create our future and peace.

So, let's continue our discussion.

Discussion

Question from Hon. Dr. Zahwah Al-Kawari, MP Bahrain: I would like to highlight that the main purpose of what we are looking for as an outcome of this meeting is to get some practical actions that we as parliamentarians need to take. When we talk about sustainable development, Goal 11 that aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable is very important. I do not think I heard about the environmental impact, or how to manage waste such as the solid waste. I would like to ask the presenters to comment on these, especially how we are going to implement it. Also, I would like to know how we can activate recommendations that we are expecting from this meeting. Thank you.

Response from Hon. Nadimul Haque, MP India: Every country has to go through its own experience. There cannot be a general formula for what you are looking for. Having said that, as parliamentarians, we are all responsible. We have to work towards making laws in the areas of climate change and solid waste management. In our city in Kolkata in India, we had a very big problem with waste management. We decided to have a meeting like this. We put in waste composting plants. Now, the whole place has become environmentally-friendly and cleaner. The leftovers are used to produce electricity. This is just one example and I am sure that other countries will benefit from such undertakings like this one too. Thank you.

Question from Hon. Hamood Al Yahyaai, MP Oman: I have two quick questions to the speaker from India. First of all, what are the mechanisms used in India to guarantee accessing RH services considering the large number of population? As for Ms. Shamaa Aldosari from the Kingdom of Bahrain, you said there is no kind of discrimination based on gender, social background, or nationality. I want to know what procedures you undertook in this regard.

Response from Hon. Nadimul Haque, MP India: Yes, population is a big challenge in India. We are seriously concerned with it. We do have a system of universal healthcare, among that RH is also taken care of. We have, at the village level, a very primary healthcare system. From there, when we go to the district level, we have secondary healthcare system. Then, on to the main cities or capital cities, we have tertiary healthcare system. Whatever cannot be taken care of at the first level goes to the second level, and similarly to the third level. Challenges, however, still remain because many people are still not covered under this system. We do have health insurance and it is spreading fast; however it is not UHC.

Response from Ms. Shamaa Aldosari, Deputy Director of BRHA, Bahrain: My presentation was not only referring to Bahrain, but it was also referring to the data extracted from WHO. We have measures for anti-discrimination against women in compliance with the Islamic Sharia. All the services under the healthcare programmes in the Kingdom of Bahrain are provided to every member of this society. For example, for women, we can provide maternal and prenatal

services in most of the main hospitals, including Salmaniya Medical Complex and the King Hamad General Hospital. All services and medicines are free of charge. All women can reach any healthcare center in her area. Hopefully this answers your question. Thank you.

Question from Hon. Wafaa Maki, MP Sudan: I would like to thank all the speakers for their presentations and thoughtful information that will help us manage these issues in our countries, by pushing the legislation forward and practicing our role as parliamentarians in the aspect of population and sustainable development.

I would like to address my question to Hon. Dr. Sahar Qawasmi from Palestine. I think everything you said was incredibly amazing. Despite the Israeli occupation Palestine has attained significant progress. I would like to ask how you have achieved it, such as reduction in maternal and infant mortality. Was it because of the legislation or practices? I would appreciate it if you can elaborate on it.

Response from Hon. Dr. Sahar Qawasmi, MP Palestine, Vice-Chair of FAPPD: We have done this because of expanding and increasing the number of medical practitioners. Previously, we had a very limited number of specialists but we have been able to have more medical experts by setting up medical centers for training and engaging them in training programmes. Also, by taking into consideration all the international standards, we were able to increase the budget of the Palestinian government allocated for medical healthcare.

We have managed to increase the number of beneficiaries of medical insurance and have guaranteed that the facilities and services are available to them. Most of the Palestinian people have their own medical insurance. And their number is increasing. It is also due to the variety and diversity of healthcare providers in the country. Our progress is attributed to all these factors. For instance, the coverage for children reached 100%. Despite what is happening in the country, we managed to maintain such practices in a very good manner, thank God.

Question from Hon. Amihilda J. Sangcopan, MP Philippines: I have one question for presenter from India, Hon. Haque. I am quite interested in the presentation, particularly considering that India is one of the countries with a huge number of people. In the same way, the Philippines has from around 50 million in the year 1976, now to 100 million plus, in terms of population. You have mentioned in your presentation that we have to take up population issues and at the same time advance the achievement of the SDGs—which should be addressed first, population matters or achieving the SDGs? When we are talking of population bulge, it does not necessarily mean that there would also be human capital bulging.

Response from Hon. Nadimul Haque, MP India: As I said in my presentation, both can be achieved provided that we invest in human capital. Each country, when their population is young, they have a unique opportunity for development. If they work hard and build the necessary infrastructure, the pressure on the next generation will be less. India is trying to invest in human capital through upgrading skills. We are trying to give young people skills training—the digital skills and computer skills. These skills will result in more job creation. It is a huge competitive market in India for jobs. They will get a good job if they have these skills.

You said 100 million people. That is a huge challenge. We have a huger challenge than you, in that we have 1.3 billion people. Definitely, the biggest way is to educate this population and invest in them, which will result in better social infrastructure, healthcare and outlook in life if they have a good income. The pressure on the next generation will be much less. That is the way to go because that is where the dividend of the population bulge comes in. That is the challenge we have. We cannot afford to miss this bus. However, as it is not automatic, we have to try.

Comments from Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, Secretary-General/Executive Director of APDA, Japan:

As organizers, in the planning of this meeting, we included one important concept. As you may know, the SDGs do not have a population target and it is because population is none other than our society. What I mean by this is that without population, our human society does not exist. Achieving sustainable development is to build a society where people can live with dignity. Because of this intrinsic nature of the issue of population, no population-related targets were set for the SDGs.

We have witnessed these developments since the ICPD in 1994, which articulated the issue of population in the context of sustainable development, and through the following international discussions. Before the ICPD, population policies focused on fertility control. The ICPD represented a “paradigm shift” from the emphasis on quantitative targets to qualitative aspects such as people’s well-being, reproductive health and reproductive rights. It is the basic right to decide whether or when they would have children, how many children they would have, and how far apart to space their births. This rights-based approach has been affirmed, and thus any population-related targets to “manipulate” population are inappropriate.

On the other hand, the Earth’s resources are finite and it cannot sustain the ever-growing population. Without stabilizing the population, the SDGs can never be achieved. What would be a solution of this dilemma? This is, I think, the most important focus of this session. It is my hope that the parliamentary statement, which will be discussed for adoption later, will include these concepts. These facts—that population is our society itself and that population factors are the most important variables—should merit serious attention globally. I would like to emphasize that it is important, from this perspective, to discuss how we can build a society

where human dignity is duly respected, while addressing challenges we face. This is just a supplementary explanation of the meeting concept. Thank you.

Comments from Dr. Mohamed Harby, Advocacy Advisor of IPPF AWRO, Tunisia: I would like to speak about the population and the SDGs. The SDGs in fact are built on human rights basis and it is human centered. So, the SDGs are prerequisites for improving our population. We cannot achieve the welfare of our population, if we did no work on solving poverty or improve our health system, and if we do not work toward achieving the SDGs and make sure that its targets at the national level are being improved. The SDGs are actually built in a way to lead us and help us gather data that will check if we are going in the right direction in serving our population. Thank you.

SESSION 2: Food Security and Employment Opportunity for Youth

Session Chair: Hon. Azza Sulaiman, MP UAE

Potential of Vegetable Factories in the Arab Region: Focus on Food Security and Job Opportunity

Mr. Takashi Egami, General Manager, Baghdad Branch Office & Amman Regional Office, Marubeni Corporation

It is a great honor and pleasure to have the opportunity to make a speech. On behalf of Marubeni, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Shura Council, APDA, FAPPD, UNFPA, IPPF, JTF and JPFP.

First, I would like to explain about Marubeni Corporation. Marubeni Corporation is one of the leading trading and investment companies in Japan, founded in 1858. This year is our 160th anniversary.

Marubeni Group business covers from food stuffs, chemicals, oil and gas and other mineral resources, to infrastructure projects, such as power including renewable energy - solar and wind. At the moment, we are constructing one of the world's biggest solar power plants in Abu Dhabi in UAE. There are also water projects, railway projects and industrial plant projects, including vegetable factories. We have 130 overseas offices located in 66 countries, including Asia and Arab countries.

Regarding today's topic, "*Potential of Vegetable Factories in the Arab Region: Focus on Food Security and Job Opportunity*", let's look at the population growth in the world. According to the World Population Prospects 2017 by the United Nations, the population in the world in 2018 is 7.6 billion. Population in 2028, after 10 years, will be estimated at 8.4 billion. We think that food issues are more and more important under the expanding population in the world.

As to food security, first, the World Food Security Summit held in Rome in 1996 by FAO defined four dimensions of food security. One is food availability, the second is food access, the third is utilization, and the fourth is stability.

In connection with food supply, there are many risks which we should consider from the food security point of view. Especially for the Arab region, which is importing vegetables, the risks are: large scale natural disasters and extraordinary events of exporting countries, transport risks, political instability of exporting countries, tightness of water supply and demand, increasing demand for food due to population growth, import competition with emerging countries. We are facing so many risks. We recommended that one of the best solutions is a vegetable factory.

This is Japan's case. In Japan, there are 373 vegetable factories operating as of February 2018. 183 are artificial light type. 190 factories are solar light basis. Recently, the number of artificial light type vegetable factories is remarkably increasing.

Why a vegetable factory? There are four key aspects: one is any place and any climate, the second is stable supply, the third is safe and fresh, the fourth is saving energy. Compared with open culture agriculture, necessary water can be one-tenth.

A vegetable factory brings advantage to the countries that import vegetables: food distributors and supermarkets being responsible for stable supply, customers who care about safety and high quality vegetables.

We hereby summarize the main advantages of vegetable factories. First, they produce safe and fresh vegetables. There are no foreign objects such as insects or soil, no agricultural chemicals, less bacteria on vegetables. The second is a shorter cultivation period. The cultivation period for green leaf lettuce is about 40 days. Third, these factories can produce long-lasting vegetables. Vegetables have a long shelf life with a maximum of about one month. Fourth, stable supply and stable quality is very important. All vegetables are the same size, same taste, and same color. Lastly, stable price means vegetable produce cost can be managed at the same level through the year.

There are several types of cultivation, such as open culture, plastic greenhouse, and artificial light hydroponic culture. Open culture is traditional cultivation, but this method depends on the natural environment, such as climate and shortage of water. Natural factors cannot be controllable. Next are plastic greenhouses. The main purpose is to control temperature. However, the method still cannot solve weather risk or insect risk. The most recommended method is artificial light hydroponic culture. Cultivating conditions such as the temperature, humidity, and lighting conditions can be perfectly controlled through the year constantly. There is one more big merit. Cultivation light can be multilayered, to maximize vegetables.

When it comes to the business flow of vegetable factories, it starts with seeds procurement until delivery. Looking at an LED type hydroponic process, the total period from seeding to cultivating takes about 40 days. Of course based on variety of crops, a shorter cultivation period will be manageable. Compared with the conventional types such as open culture and plastic greenhouse, the cultivation period is remarkably shorter. A big merit is to be able to cultivate through the year regardless of any climate.

These are examples of vegetables which can be cultivated in Marubeni vegetable factories. Various kinds of leaf vegetables, such as green leaf lettuce, red leaf lettuce, parsley, baby spinach, and others can be cultivated.

In addition to general vegetable factories, which are installed in the normal circumstances, there are various potential locations of Marubeni LED type vegetable factories such as for offshore oil platforms, ships and the sites of mines. The smallest is designed as a 40-foot container type.

Actually, our demo plant is operating in the suburban of Dubai, UAE, successfully. Here, LED-multilayered type is installed.

We at Marubeni are aiming to introduce more environmentally-friendly vegetable factories. In the near future, our vegetable factories could be operated with renewable energy power, such as solar and wind. Our plans also include water circulation system and renewable organic fertilizer. Besides, we are also aiming to produce higher valued-added products, such as functional vegetables and foods, etc.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for this opportunity to make this presentation. We at Marubeni are working to participate in vegetable factory activities together with all of our experts, with future contributions to the economic growth and development in the world. Thank you.

Regional Food Security and Population Policy

Hon. Amira Aser, MP Sudan

Population and food security

In sociology, population refers to a collection of humans. Demography is a social science which entails the statistical study of human populations. Population in simpler terms is the number of people in a city or town, region, country or world; population is usually determined by a process called census (a process of collecting, analyzing, compiling and publishing data). Natural population growth measures the rate of population increase as determined solely by births and deaths. Migration flows are not taken into account.

Negative effects of population issues

Major population growth in the world occurs in developing countries; 92% occur in Asia, Africa and Latin America which account for 77% of the world population. This rapid increase is called as a “population bomb”, which leads to many problems. Many regions have been called “regions of hunger” which are failing to supply population with sufficient food.

Definition of food security

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

Definition in the 1970s

The initial focus, reflecting the global concerns of 1974, was on the volume and stability of food supplies. Food security was defined in the 1974 World Food Summit as: “availability at all

times of adequate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices”.

Definition in the 1980s

In 1983, FAO expanded its concept to include securing access by vulnerable people to available supplies, implying that attention should be balanced between the demand and supply side of the food security equation: “ensuring that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food that they need”.

Definition in the 1990s

The 1996 World Food Summit adopted a still more complex definition: “Food security, at the individual, household, national, regional and global levels [is achieved] when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”.

Definition in the new millennium

Food security strongly related to peace, stability and good governance, as well as international solidarity.

International definitions

Food security, as defined by the United Nations’ Committee on World Food Security (CFS), is the condition in which all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Over the coming decades, a changing climate, growing global population, rising food prices, and environmental stressors will have significant yet highly uncertain impact on food security.

Definition of the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development (AOAD)

Offering food with adequate quality and quantity for active and health needed for all Arab depending on the local production and on the comparative advantage.

The SDGs and Food Security

Food security is closely related to Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), Goal 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and other goals and indicators.

These goals should be implemented through doubling the agricultural production, ensuring sustainable systems for producing food, improving soil and quality of land, keeping genetic diversity for seeds, and offering comfortable agricultural market for farmers. The SDGs aim to provide a decent life for individuals and the next generations. Without implementing these goals all process will fail.

Facts and numbers:

- More than 820 million people in the world do not have adequate food — that is around one out of nine people in the world.
- The majority of the world's hungry people live in developing countries. Asia is the continent with the most hungry people, which accounts for two thirds of the total.
- One out of four people in Africa faces chronic food deprivation.
- Nutrition-related factors contribute to about 45% of deaths in children under-five years of age (3.1 million annually).
- One out of four children in the world is affected by stunting, and in developing countries it may increase to one out of three children.
- Increasing of the average of the obesity (overweight).
- 66 million primary school-age children go to school hungry across the developing world, and 23 million live in Africa.

The increasing level of food insecurity leads to increasing migration across borders. Furthermore, food insecurity is a main cause to outbreak and escalation of armed conflicts.

Population increase and food shortage

The UNDP report points out that only a few rich people enjoy the biggest share of the world's wealth, knowledge and production, while many suffer from malnutrition and hunger, some of whom die of starvation. To strike a balance between population and food, it is important to consider natural factors, disasters or wars to intervene, in addition to scientific and technical advancement in the field of agriculture, industry and transportation.

Dimensions of food security

Important factors of food security are summarized as follows:

a. Moral (Ethical) Dimension:

Food security is linked to the reality and the future of the human being. Food is a basic need for human beings, and harming food security is harmful to the future of the society.

To maintain and guarantee food security is basically moral motivation, and this dimension should be ensured through spreading the values of food justice and protecting the right to food for all human beings of all backgrounds and affiliations. Moreover, it is important to enhance the ethical values of self-reliance and of resisting fraud, speculation, monopoly and smuggling as economic ethical threats to the food security.

b. Social Dimension:

The social dimension of food security is represented by the social element, which includes:

- The percentage of population growth (reproduction) and population planning and control of fertility trends
- The level of housing development and the availability of psychological comfort and family happiness
- The standards of family living in terms of the parity between the two spouses and securing the lives of children.
- The level of society movement (social mobility) affects community stability and its food security. The greater the phenomenon of migration in the society the higher the social vulnerability in terms of achieving food security. In particular, internal migration from rural areas to cities leads to food insecurity.

c. Economic Dimension:

Economy plays a vital role in ensuring food security, which requires the following items:

- Natural resources, advanced industry, appropriate services, good governance
- Advanced transportation, communication and coordination through inclusive development
- Without tight and integrated price system or discrete and active fiscal policies, food security is not completed

d. Health Dimension

This dimension concerns the provision of health services, medicine, preventive care, and health culture in the community.

e. Political Dimension:

The political dimension of food security is linked to the role of the state as it is the main actor charged with overseeing, formulating policies and programmes to achieve food security.

f. Cultural and Anthropological Dimension:

- Preserving the cultural food heritage (material and non-material) including proverbs, puzzles, riddles, jokes, poems, songs, food habits and storage habits.
- Promoting education and addressing illiteracy can help address false food practices and beliefs and spread healthy food culture.

Demographic factors and food crisis in the Arab region

In the past decades, the Arab region has witnessed a huge population growth. This leads to an imbalance between food supply and demand. Besides, due to migration from rural areas to cities, the labor force in the agricultural sector shrank tremendously, which leads to a decline in the performance of the agricultural sector. The rural population continues decreasing while the urban population keeps going up, leading to urbanization at the expense of the agricultural sector. The rural migration causes fluctuations of agricultural production unless there is a remarkable improvement in the production by farmers.

Moreover, the improvement of the economic situation in most Arab states leads to the improvement of living standards, therefore creating a demand for more food variety. This results in widening food gap and forcing the Arab states to use their purchasing power to satisfy their food needs, which has negatively affected trade balances.

Food Security in Arab Region:

According to the reports of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, there is food deficiency. Food gaps are severe for some major food products, in particular grain (wheat).

This table shows the Food Security Index by Global Food Safety Initiative 2014. The countries with high Index values have better performances in affordability and availability of food.

State	Index
Yemen	35.2
Syria	40.3
Algeria	47.5
Egypt	49.3
Morocco	50.1
Jordan	53
Tunis	55.7
Turkey	63.8
Saudi Arabia	69.6
United Arab Emirates	70.9
Kuwait	72.2
Israel	80.6

Source: Global Food Safety Initiative 2014

Conclusion:

Poverty and ignorance are among the main causes of hunger outbreaks and are of the biggest obstacles to achieve food security. Hunger leads to a decline in the levels of education and

public health, while spreading malnutrition due to the inability of poor people to diversify their food resources.

In addition to the need for joint efforts to establish trade and economic blocks for participating and distributing resources fairly, it is essential to generate a strong Arab political will to address food security.

Discussions

Comments from Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, Secretary-General/Executive Director of APDA, Japan: Please let me add a few words. During Part I of the project in Jordan last year, it was agreed that we should develop some practical solutions for the youth as a next step. As the organizer of this meeting, over the past year we were looking for useful, realistic and practical initiatives that we can share with parliamentarians, and came across the project by Marubeni Corporation.

The Arab region has been an importer of food, but with the abundant sunlight in this region combined with the advancement of technology, there will be new opportunities.

One of the ideas is to use solar energy to desalinate seawater and grow vegetables and other foods. If we combine the closed vegetable factories with seawater desalination plants using solar cells, this will allow Arab countries to achieve sustainable agricultural production with minimum use of water and with less burden on the environment.

Furthermore, in the closed plants, the quality of products can be kept under constant control and there is no need for fertilizers. With this new system, the Arab countries can be top exporters of food to, for example, Europe, which has strictest quality and food safety regulations. A comparative advantage exists when the Arab region is able to take advantage of its abundant sunlight.

These vegetable plants can also provide employment opportunities for the youth. Young people may find this new agricultural production method more appealing than the conventional agricultural practices. The investment in such a system can bring about a paradigm shift where the Arab countries, which are now food importers, turn into big exporters of food. This will contribute to ensuring food security globally and achieving the SDGs.

With cooperation from all quarters, we are very pleased to have Mr. Egami here with us today to share Marubeni Corporation's experiences. Marubeni Corporation has also developed water purification projects with solar power and other projects in many countries, I hope this is useful.

SESSION 3: Parliamentarians' Role for Regional Development

Session Chair: Hon. Souhail Alouini, MP Tunisia

Advancing Inter-Regional Cooperation

Hon. Amihilda J. Sangcopan, MP Philippines

First and foremost, allow me to extend my congratulations to both the Philippine government and the Bahrain government for the celebrations of the 40th year of the establishment of Philippine-Bahrain diplomatic relations. In fact, Bahrain is a second home to us Filipinos, and personally I look forward to the creation of a parliamentary friendship between our countries on whatever concerns for which it would be possible to sit down, discuss, and complement each other on, particularly in terms of helping third world countries.

Before I start my presentation, let me first introduce myself. I am Amihilda J, a native-born Filipino from the south. My mother is from Sulu and my father is from Lanao del Sur. I am a product of the people of the southern-most part of the country. I am proud to be from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. I just joined the House of Representatives of the Philippines last January. I am a member of the Committee on Food Security and six other committees for the House of Representatives.

As a new legislator, I am made to understand that my primary role as a parliamentarian is to represent the people, my constituency. Parliamentarians are expected to represent the interests of our constituents, drafting laws that would respond to the needs of our constituents and contribute to the pursuit of national development goals. Secondly, we are expected to ensure that these laws are implemented through the provision of budgets, and exacting accountability from government officials who work to implement the goals that we have enacted.

In the last several decades, significant steps have been made as far as achieving economic development and growth is concerned. However, we have also learned that for development to mean something to the people, it must be more than just about economic growth, but also about expanding people's choices, and not at the expense of the future generation.

Thus, it is very much important for us, at this point of time, to invest in our youth. We have tried to empower them through educating them. It is high time that we engaged them in the achieving of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The introduction of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the SDGs gives guidelines by which countries can pursue development that is inclusive and equitable. As I mentioned earlier on, as a member of the parliament, our role in the pursuit of the development primarily lies in drafting laws that will create a policy environment for sustainable development. In this regard, the first step will be to identify the areas for policy reforms or

areas where policies are needed. Once these are identified, we draft the bills—SDGs-related laws—and see them through the legislative process until enacted.

In the Philippines, crafting bills involves the participation of not only the legislators and government agencies concerned, but also civil society organizations (CSOs) and groups that represent the marginalized sectors. I myself, as a representative in the House of Representatives of the Philippines, am representing part of this group, which represents the people of Mindanao.

In fact, most of the laws that impact on human development and social justice in our country are ones that are the results of concerted efforts of legislatures, executive government agencies, and CSOs. Let me give you a list of these. The laws and bills that we have recently enacted related to the MDGs and the SDGs are as follows:

Recent MDG/SDG-related laws passed	SDG-related bills filed in Congress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magna Carta of Women • K+12 Law • Reproductive Health Law • Sangguniang Kabataan (Youth Council) Reform and Empowerment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero hunger/Right to food bill • Universal health care bill • Addressing teenage pregnancies • Expanded maternity leave bill • First 1,000 Days bill • HIV prevention, treatment, care and support • Freedom of information bill

Another function of Congress that I admit is not often exercised, at least in the Philippines maybe is quite abused, is congressional oversight. However, the importance of exercising oversight powers and legal review has been in recent years increasingly recognized.

Because the implementation of the SDGs-related laws often involves multiple government agencies, the provision of oversight work can be complex and challenging. However, these can be done through budget hearings. In the House of Representatives of the Philippines, a Committee of the Millennium Development Goals was created exactly for this purpose. It was replaced then by a special committee on Sustainable Development Goals in 2016, where bills and the solutions responding to the SDGs are referred.

An equally important power of the legislative branch is the power of “the push”, through which congress determines the budget allocation of every government institution, based on the proposal coming from the President. During this process, the legislatures have the opportunity to ensure that the implementation of SDGs-related laws and programmes are meaningfully allocated and accounted for.

Legislators must maximize the opportunity to ask questions when agencies propose their budget request to Congress. I was actually placed in a dilemma the day before I traveled here to Bahrain, because right now at this very moment there is ongoing deliberation for the budget of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Public Works and Highways, two major agencies in the Philippines. When we talk of zero hunger and poverty alleviation, we talk about the Department of Agriculture because we need to first address rural poverty.

Let me show you a picture of the Philippines on the SDGs. The Philippines ranks the 93rd among 157 countries on overall SDGs performance, based on the SDGs Index in 2007. Our country ranks 72nd out of 109 when it comes to food security based on the 2015 Global Food Security Index.

The Philippines is quite active on several inter-regional organizations work operations. The Philippines is known to be the most gender equal country in Southeast Asia. According to Gender Equality Index, the Philippines ranks 10th place in the world.

These indexes compare the labor force participation of men and women and current gender divisions of labor. Men outnumber women in the labor force by about 20%, while women outnumber men in unpaid work. Unpaid family workers refer to family members who work without pay, such as on a family-operated farm.

On the matter of agriculture, the gender gap on land acquisition and ownership is significant. There are about 1,342,509 land ownership certificates awarded to men, while there are only 653,945 land ownership certificates awarded to woman.

On a larger scale, when we talk of unemployment, the number of unemployed Filipinos is 2.4 million. 49% of these laborers belong to the youth group. However, the difference between men and women when it comes to the unemployment rate is not that significant. I just want to call your attention to that 49% of the 2.4 million are youth. Aside from educating the youth, I would want to advocate that they will not just be educated but rather empowered and be engaged in achieving the SDGs.

In the Philippines, we have at the grassroots' level the Sangguniang Kabataan and the National Youth Commission, which craft policies and programmes that would benefit young Filipinos. However, these institutions have existed, and yet 49% of the unemployed 2.4 million still belongs to the youth sector.

Meetings like this provide Parliamentarians with the necessary avenues for exchange of ideas and lessons and, more importantly, for familiarizing ourselves with other contacts to gain a deeper understanding of how the SDGs may be achieved.


Under the Philippine context, we have a reproductive health bill, which would seek to address the concern on population. Now, we have to look into achieving and developing the SDGs. Hopefully, we, as parliamentarians, can discuss formally and informally concerns that come across all the SDGs. First, reducing inequalities, which is SDG10, which is the foremost aim of

the SDGs. This means ensuring that development is inclusive and that no one gets left behind. Second is harnessing demographic dividends and, in the case of the Philippines, reaching for the demographic dividend. We must ensure that young people get access to health care (including SRH), access to family planning, investment in education, and investment in employment opportunities so that they become healthy and productive citizens who can contribute to national development.

The next slide relates to the topic that was given to me: how are we going to advance interregional cooperation?

WORKING WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND MECHANISMS

- UNITED NATIONS
- ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)
- ASIA POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (APDA)
- INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATIONS
 - INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)
 - ASEAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY(AIPA)
 - ASIAN FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (AFPPD)



There are various opportunities for parliamentarians to engage in the promotion of the SDGs at the regional and international level, such as through multilateral organizations such as the UN and its agencies, international aid agencies, and regional organizations such as the ASEAN and others. The Asian Population and Development Association, which hosts us in the meeting over the coming few days, is also one of such mechanisms.

For parliamentarians, these regional and international bodies and mechanisms can provide a platform for the following: (1) advocacy, (2) capacity building, (3) sharing best practices and possibly replicate those best practices and success stories in our own countries, and (4) transfers of technology, north-south and south-south operations.

While achievement of the SDGs is a global pursuit, it is important to recognize that it hinges on national and regional strategies and realities. Thus, I understand the response of the honorable member of the parliament of India this morning that “it’s up to us” — yes, it is really up to us. I am here because I wanted to learn and hear stories of every member country who is at this meeting.

In closing, let me remind everyone that our position as parliamentarians is a privilege. It truly is a privilege to be able to contribute to improving the lives of people through the laws we craft and examine and allocate budgets. It is a great opportunity for us to give a better future to the young, in whom we should invest today.

May this gathering serve as an inspiration to us legislators and help form a community of like-minded SDGs advocates. I end my presentation with this African proverb: if you want to walk fast, walk alone. But if you want to walk far, walk together. I am Amihilda J, a member of the House of Representatives in the Philippines. I hereby commit to APDA that the Philippine Parliament will always be here to be with you to help in advocating and achieving the SDGs in the Philippines.

Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development

Hon. Ghitha Badroun, MP Morocco

First, I would like to express my appreciation and sincere thanks to the Kingdom and to its King, its people for the hospitality. I would also like to thank FAPPD, APDA, and the Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the organization.

I am really pleased to be among you to represent my country, Morocco, in the forum. I would also like to seize this opportunity to thank everyone who is here with us to exchange their experiences, thoughts, and ideas about the SDGs.

My presentation for today will be about regional cooperation for sustainable development. I will be tackling certain issues. First, I will discuss the definition of “regional cooperation”, and then I will address regional cooperation for sustainable development.

First, what do we mean by “regional cooperation”? Today, we are facing numerous problems and obstacles in which we need to have cooperation among each other in order to find good solutions. Among whom should we have this regional or international cooperation? It should be among all the institutions and organizations and civil communities, and every member in the community. How can we establish this cooperation through the coordination of programmes, in both the long and short terms by the financing and exchange of information and thoughts? What are the levels of cooperation? We have the educational, economic, political, judicial, as well as military cooperation.

For example, we have the World Health Organization (WHO), the Arab League, the United Nations, and also the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD). We know the difficulty we are facing on all levels, of course. The cooperation should exceed the center. We in Morocco have different authorities or ministries. This cooperation should be done among all the institutions and authorities in order to find the right solution for all the problems that the people of the country are facing.

What do we mean by this sustainable development? It is development that advances a nation and its people by having a positive impact on future generations. We can refer to sustainable development as something similar to heritage; we can use it, preserve it, and maintain it to make sure it is preserved properly for future generations to use and benefit from.

When we talk about development, anything that is in relation to environment usually comes to our mind, but no, our meaning of sustainable development focuses on three main pillars: the human community, the economy, and the environment. I should have put “human” in the center because it is the center of sustainable development. In order to achieve benefits for humans in sustainable development, we need to put it at the center of this development, what we can refer this to by using the natural resources of the country.

What is the relationship of the development with humans? There is no development without humans and there are no humans without development. This is an integrated relationship from which each party can benefit. We talk about the current generations that provide its needs without harming the future generations. The current generation should be cultural, educated, innovative, creative, using the minimum average, for example, of natural resources or any type of resources we have in the country. That is why it is important for the current generation to protect these resources.

I will now be referring to the Sustainable developments Goals (SDGs). Every speaker referred to these goals in their presentation, and that is why I will not go into details. I just want to highlight the main goals. I think they referred to the document that was signed and they inserted 17 Goals in 2015. Previously, the MDGs consisted of 8 Goals, which were not achieved completely, so it was decided to have 17 Goals. The SDGs target not only developing countries, but also developed countries.

The SDGs are based on three factors: the economic growth, the social aspect, and the environment. The aims are to combat poverty and inequality. The 17 Goals are:

- Goal 1: combat poverty
- Goal 2: eliminate hunger and starvation
- Goal 3: good health and well-being
- Goal 4: quality education
- Goal 5: gender equality, the enabling and economic empowerment of women
- Goal 6: clean water and sanitation,
- Goal 7: affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8: decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9: industry, innovation and infrastructure

- Goal 10: prevent a inequality
- Goal 11: sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12: responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13: climate action
- Goal 14: marine life
- Goal 15: life on land
- Goal 16: peace, justice, and strong, effective institutions
- Goal 17: partnerships.

The role of parliamentarians in achieving the SDGs should be strong and effective, whether inside or outside of the country. In order to achieve these goals, what can parliamentarians do? These are my own thoughts, but I did some research and I found these to be useful to share.

First, we must know the SDGs. We need to get introduced to them properly and discuss them mutually and officially inside the parliament. This is necessary in order to create a network of parliamentarians to activate these goals, recognize precisely the official statistics and indicators, cooperate with communities, and enact legislation to achieve these goals, and translate these goals into implementation. Also, we should monitor the parliament to see the effectiveness and quality of such goals in the community.

International cooperation for sustainable development - what do we mean by this? It is a mechanism and way of cooperation by obliging and committing to legislation. Goal number 17, recommends us to strengthen partnerships. This cooperation should not be done only within the countries but also among all institutions, fora and associations to activate the programmes and activities internally and internationally.

Now, I will give you an example from my country. We have adopted a strategy for sustainable development from 2016 to 2030, and since Morocco assigns different agreements in this regard, we can refer to Morocco as a good example of this. This is being led by the King of Morocco, Mohammed VI. I will extract from his Majesty's speech on 30 July 2010, which is the constitutional speech of his majesty. During this speech, he called upon the government to promote greater dialogue regarding preparation of a national constitution. This constitution was instructed to protect the environment and support sustainable development in a plan that is achievable inside the country.

We have a list of the bilateral cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development. This is the list of agreements that Morocco has signed with other countries, such as Tunisia, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Libya, and the rest of the Arab world. We have

African and other European countries. Another example: to set a working plan between Morocco and the EU in order to assess the advanced situation and focus on accomplishments, activities and programmes. This cooperation focuses on three main aspects: the cooperation with the international organizations, activation of negotiations in the framework of international agreements, and identifying opportunities for financing and follow up with evaluation of cooperation projects. I only presented Morocco as an example. I would like to thank you for your time.

Legislation and Policymaking for National Development

Hon. Akmal Burkhanov, MP Uzbekistan

First of all, I would like to express gratitude to the organizers of today's event for the invitation to participate in this conference and share our experience! It is a great honor for me to be invited to such highly organized event.

During the years of independence in Uzbekistan has been created a stable and dynamically developing political system, a two-chamber Parliament working on a professional basis, necessary organizational, legal and logistical conditions for the free and active participation of citizens and political parties in solving the most important tasks of social and economic development and social construction.

We are all aware that the formation of legal statehood is a complex and lengthy process, coupled with overcoming many difficulties. Among the problems of the formation of the rule of law in Uzbekistan, an important place is occupied by issues related to state institutions functioning on the principles of parliamentarians.

The realities of time have indicated that without an authorized parliament there cannot be a full-fledged democracy in the country. It is not coincidental that citizens associate their ideas about democracy with their real opportunity to participate in the governance of the state and through parliament to influence the legislative process.

With the acquisition of Uzbekistan's independence and sovereignty in 1991 began the development of a new legislative body as one of the most important institutions of state power. The newest history of national parliamentarians is universally recognized as being divided into three main periods: the first period: 1991-1994, second period: 1995-2004, the third period: from 2005 to the present.

The unicameral parliament, which operated until 2004, made a significant contribution to the construction of the socio-political system of an independent state, a just civil society, the formation of a legal basis for the development of socio-economic and other spheres, and the strengthening of national statehood.

From 1995 to 2004, the Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan passed 446 laws, 778 resolutions, introduced 1,573 changes and additions to the existing legislative acts, ratified more than 130 international treaties and agreements.

As a result of the nationwide referendum, an important reform in the field of state building and the transition from unicameral to bicameral parliament, two chambers of the supreme legislative body were formed in 2005 on the basis of amendments to the Constitution of Uzbekistan—the Legislative Chamber (lower chamber) and the Senate (upper chamber). The bicameral parliament expanded the possibilities for more effective implementation of parliamentary functions, which allowed to interact constructively with all government structures of the state, as well as opened the possibility for civil society institutions, political parties and other public organizations to represent the interests of different sectors of society more fully and effectively in the Uzbek legislature. The modern system of legislation of Uzbekistan is the part of the legal system. The creation of a stable legal system, evolving in an evolutionary way, is a priority in the aspect of legislative consolidation of new social relations and social values.

The formation of the legislative system is carried out in several important areas. First, the creation of a legal framework for state construction; secondly, the formation of a system of market legislation; thirdly, the creation of legislation that ensures constitutional and legal human rights, social guarantees and social support for the population; fourth, the formation of legislation aimed at preserving national identity, language, education and cultural heritage. And last one is the creation of a legal framework that defines Uzbekistan as an equal subject of international relations.

It should be noted that in 2017, the Republic of Uzbekistan shifted to the most important stage of its democratic and legal development, the phase of further reforming all aspects of society. Uzbekistan's Action Strategy on Five Priority Development Areas on nearest 5 years was approved by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in February 2017. It became the strategic programme of political and economic reforms in the Republic and initiated a new stage of fundamental democratic reforms and modernization of the country, as well as further improvement a system for ensuring the human rights, freedoms and legitimate interests.

The Action Strategy is as the roadmap of Uzbekistan to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is implemented in 5 stages, each of which provides for approval of an annual State Programme for its implementation in accordance with the declared name of the year.

With this in mind, the year 2017 in Uzbekistan was declared as the Year of Dialogue with the People and Human Interests, the State Programme of the same name was approved providing for the implementation of a set of legislative, institutional, monitoring and informative measures aimed at ensuring the rule of law and strengthening guarantees of reliable protection of rights, freedom and legitimate interests of citizens, active involvement of civil

society institutions in discussing important issues of improving the activities of state bodies. More than 8.3 billion US dollars were allocated for the implementation of the measures indicated in the State Programme of Actions.

In implementing the Action Strategy in 2017 and this year, the main focus is on the fundamental reform of state and public construction aimed at further strengthening the role of parliament and political parties in deepening democratic reforms and modernization of the country, enhancing the role of civil institutions in protecting human rights, ensuring the rule of law and further reforming forensic legal system.

It is noteworthy that the reforms in the sphere of public administration began with the reforms of the Parliament - the Supreme State Representative Body. First and foremost, the role of the National Parliament and political parties increased even more. The role of the Parliament in the system of state power has been increased, and its powers to implement parliamentary control over the fulfillment of important tasks in the country's foreign and domestic policy, the activities of the executive power, and the role of political parties in the life of the state and society have been strengthened.

Dear conference participants, it should be noted that in our Republic, much attention is paid to the younger generation, all conditions are created for their harmonious development and self-realization. Note that more than 60% of the Uzbekistan's population is youth, which is a huge creative resource. Particularly significant measure was the creation last year of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan by the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the announcement on 30 June of the Day of Youth.

The Youth Union of Uzbekistan is the organization that is engaged in the consistent and effective implementation of state youth policy, the all-round support of youth, the reform of the system for protecting its rights and legitimate interests, taking into account the opinions and proposals of the general public, especially representatives of youth. Also the "State Youth Policy" Law which reflects the main aspects of working with the younger generation, its legal and social protection, the conditions for the formation of physically and intellectually developed personalities.

Over the past year, more than 40 legal and regulatory acts related to youth issues have been adopted, and some 70 documents have been amended and supplemented. This indicates a renewal of the work system with the younger generation. In the Legislative Chamber of the Parliament, a Commission on Youth Affairs has been established.

Of particular interest is the initiative of the President of our country put forward during the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2017 to develop multilateral cooperation in the field of social support for the younger generation, to protect their rights, freedoms and legitimate interests.

In this context, the proposal of the head of our state on the development of the UN "International Convention on the Rights of Youth", aimed at the formation and effective

implementation of youth policy in the context of globalization and the rapid development of information and communication technologies (ICT), is voiced.

Thus, it should be mentioned that the current legislation of Uzbekistan creates a legal basis for the further development of the socio-political system and economic relations, the establishment of new, democratic norms, social and legal guarantees. The legal values and ideals of a modern democratic state enshrined in the Constitution of Uzbekistan, as well as the closer integration of its legal system with international law, allow the use of positive international and foreign legal experience in the formation of a unified system of Uzbek legislation.

Summing up my statement, I would like to express the hope that today's meeting in this format will be good opportunity to advance concrete action on the SDGs, to get international experience of Parliamentarian's role for regional development, and become a good platform for inter-regional exchange, share information, and take stock of progress on population and development issues. We are ready and open to contribute support of the activities of parliamentarians and interregional cooperation.

Discussions

Question from a participant: I have a question about how we are going to cooperate on an international level, and I would like to see who can actually answer them. Can UN agencies such as the World Bank and other agencies help countries in achieving the SDGs? As for international cooperation, we do not see any progress. We see countries talking about stopping any type of support. Some countries believe that it is against their own benefit or policies. It is so even with the United Nations and its specialized agencies, which give grants to education, health, and other areas. When we see the UN or other international agencies not giving grants, how can we talk about international cooperation?

Response from Hon. Dr. Sahar Qawasmi, MP Palestine, Vice-Chair of FAPPD: This is a question for which I believe I might have an answer. The United Nations is committed to achieving the SDGs. And countries around the world, whether in the Middle East or other regions, are all committed to implementing these goals. For example, whether it is UNESCO or WHO, they have their own mandate but also are committed to achieving the SDGs.

On the issue of setback of international cooperation, or even bilateral cooperation from the United Nations, this basically has sprung out of political dynamics. I will give you an example from our country, which used to be a good partner of the European Union (EU), but in the current administration there are some concerns between our government and the EU. It is quite obvious and was all over the news. Sometimes the national politics of our country gets in as a barrier as one of the factors of the setback. Or it may be due to the priorities

advocated by the institutions that provide aid and the relationship and coordination with them. That is basically how I can respond to the question.

I believe that different agencies from the United Nations are committed to the SDGs. I think that it is not much about implementing programmes, but it is more about creating awareness and giving aid and support, or even providing assistance for the formulation of policies. We must work in cooperation and partnership to achieve the SDGs.

There are some issues since some countries might not be following the international agreement. Also, the veto is used in the Security Council of the UN against human rights issues, and it is against international laws. Therefore, there are certain policies that need to be changed. The mechanism of using vetoes needs to be changed.

Two weeks ago, I participated in “EvalColombo2018” with more than 200 parliamentarians from more than 70 countries. All parliamentarians agreed that they want to implement policies for the SDGs. We have to separate the SDGs from political issues. International organizations are ready to support this, even small projects. If you apply within the SDGs, it is faster and easier to get support.

Question from Hon. Juma Al Kaabi, MP Bahrain: I would like to ask a question to Hon. Ghitha Badroun from Morocco. You talked about maintaining the marine life. There are great threats that marine life is facing, especially in the GCC countries. What is left of marine life in the seas around the GCC states is only 20% of what there once was. One of the main reasons affecting this is the illegal hunting or fishery processes that are taking place in those areas. What are the Members of Parliament doing to salvage what is left of marine life? We want to prevent this abuse of marine life so that we can save it for the future. What do you think would be the solutions for this?

Response from Hon. Ghitha Badroun, MP Morocco: To be honest, maybe you have more experience on this subject? This is not my specialization, and I looked at this objective as one of the SDGs. In Bahrain, they might be suffering from this problem. In Morocco we also have some issues that certain sea areas were polluted due to factories and industry. It has affected the quality of the marine life and fisheries in those areas. Therefore, as a solution, as a Member of Parliament, I would suggest working on legislation that would defend the marine life and fisheries. This is our role. We should introduce and formulate new laws that can protect marine life.

We discuss this issue within the parliament’s framework, which is the same for Bahrain as well as other countries. At some point we might need to consider setting up a special investigation committee to evaluate the problem and find proper solutions through legislation.

Comments from Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, Secretary- General/Executive Director of APDA, Japan: I would like to add a little to the presentation made by the honorable Member of Parliament from Uzbekistan. As the organizer of this meeting, we are organizing this kind of meeting because we recognize the significant role that parliamentarians can and should play.

At the international level, UN organizations and other international organizations play a major role to execute their missions.

On the other hand, parliaments represent their own people. In this point of view, parliamentarians have a very important and unique role in achieving the SDGs. If we apply academic thinking to the SDGs, they are not all consistent. Some concepts, such as the issues of human rights, environmental restrictions, externality of economies, are contradicting each other. There is no overarching theoretical framework, while the SDGs show us what is required to achieve sustainable development.

This is where parliamentarians can take a leading role. The SDGs are not just science issues — these are matters of decision-making by parliamentarians as representatives of people. Last year we organized a parliamentarians’ meeting in India and issued a message that parliamentarians are the forth pillar for achieving the SDGs.

Especially, population issues cannot be forced upon people. It means that these issues need to be solved under the understanding of the people. In addition, parliamentarians serve as a medium to convey people’s wisdom to the international community and also share international organization’s knowledge with people. We are very pleased to organize this meeting as a platform for this purpose.

Comments from Hon. Dr. Toshiko Abe, MP Japan, Deputy Executive Director of JFPF: First, about the law, every country has a law but they do not know how to apply. They process things differently depending on the country. Another thing is international organizations are not working for you; they are working for their sustainability. We have to reform the United Nations. We have too many similar international organizations. You have to think about your own country. Parliamentarians, you cannot separate from politics, because you are politicians. Unstable politics make the people worse. You have to help stabilize politics, and at the same time you have to convince your own country’s people that we have to think about the future and how to collaborate with each other. Discussion between politicians face to face makes the world different.

Comments from Hon. Nadimul Haque, MP India: I agree that national politics often gets in the way of implementing the SDGs. In India, not all parliamentarians are the center of power. Political parties are the centers of powers, and the leader of these parties might not be a parliamentarian. For example, the Chief Minister of West Bengal is the leader of my party, but she is an ex-MP. The center of power lies outside the Parliament in many cases, and that is a

big challenge. While we are getting parliamentarians on board to implement the SDGs, I think we should also look at the people who are actually the decision-makers or who can influence the decision. Thank you.

Comments from Hon. Dr. Souhail Alouini, MP Tunisia: I agree with what people say. The role of the parliamentarian is very important. Maybe in the past we were not thinking enough about how we represent the people over any concerns or interests. We are responsible for talking to people about important issues such as population and sustainable development. It is for future generations, and we will be blamed by the future generation if we did not talk about these issues. I know it is not easy for everybody, but at least we have to say what we think. That is the ethics of our role as parliamentarians. Thank you very much.

SESSION 4: Discussion for the Adoption of the Parliamentarians' Statement

Session Chair: Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva, MP Kyrgyzstan

Under the chairpersonship of Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva, a draft statement was actively discussed by the delegates, which was unanimously adopted as a meeting output.

CLOSING SESSION

Address

Hon. Ibtisam Abu Rehab, MP Egypt, President of IPPF Arab World Region

On behalf of the Arab Region for the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), as we are concluding the work of this important day, which aims at deepening the partnerships among Arab and Asian parliamentarians to achieve the SDGs. Here, I would like to express my thanks to the organizers, APDA and FAPPD, associations, and academics for your hard work that plays a major role in the success of this meeting.

During the meeting, we hear valuable presentations about different and complementary roles for partners, with a view to achieving the SDGs. These presentations were characterized by comprehensiveness and excellence thorough active interaction among the participants, enriching the discussions.

This process facilitates applicable recommendations and strategic partnerships between our institutions for mutual and coordinated work in the Arab region. This is to attain our goals of achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, including fulfilling the needs for family planning, empowerment of youth and women, and fighting female circumcision.

Your Excellencies, this meeting has offered a great opportunity for exchanging successful experiences in programming the SDGs to implement, follow up and evaluate to these programmes. When we are back in our countries, you will have responsibilities with a firm determination to implement these priorities in a coordinated and comprehensive way.

Also, I would like to confirm that the Arab World of IPPF complies with promoting the regional efforts in the field of SRH, also empowering women and youth. In addition to that, it is important to promote the strategic partnerships among our institutions to fulfill the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, especially the goals related to empowerment of women and youth and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all.

What has been issued from our conference is a deposit for us to work and implement it effectively, and our efforts will help the coming generations.

Finally, I would like to thank the Kingdom of Bahrain, and His Majesty Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa and the Council of Shura of Bahrain for hosting this conference. Also, I would thank JFPF and all of you here for organizing and attending this meeting. Thank you all.

Closing Address

Hon. Hiroyuki Nagahama, MP Japan, Vice-Chair of JPFP

Distinguished participants, I would like to say a few words at the closing of this conference.

Through this conference, we were able to consolidate our views from Asia and Arab on how we specifically carry out parliamentary activities for the achievement of the SDGs, as we head towards the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), as well as the G20 Summit that will be hosted by Japan next year.

Demographic transition in the Asia and Arab regions has resulted in the expansion of youth population in our regions. Adopting measures now to make youth an engine for sustainable development is, above all, an important precondition for achieving the SDGs.

By fully taking advantage of the conditions and characteristics found in our regions, we may be able to transform what might be considered as impediments into opportunities. We parliamentarians are called upon to provide such wisdom. It is fundamentally important for us to offer such a vision and give hope to the people.

At this conference, the following important perspectives were presented and confirmed:

- The population issue is not simply a matter of numbers, but has bearing on our human society.
- Without efforts to stabilize the population, there can be no sustainable development.
- To stabilize the population, we need to work toward achieving universal health coverage (UHC) to enable people to live more healthy lives and promote mortality transition. At the same time, we must make comparable efforts to bring about fertility transition.
- To bring about fertility transition, we must prevent unwanted pregnancies by achieving universal access to reproductive health (RH) services.
- To help make our youth the engine for development, we must give a particular focus on the education of girls, who are often placed in a vulnerable position in society, and provide youth with education and training that meets future needs of society.
- We must seek opinions from many quarters, consider innovative approaches to promote industry by taking advantage of local features and conditions, and actively implement policies for creating employment for the youth.

The above measures are achievable through our efforts as parliamentarians in strengthening our roles in terms of allocating budgetary resources, legislating, and exercising oversight. We

also believe that the above measures will constitute essential contribution to the achievement of the SDGs.

A basic condition for building global partnership will be to use legislation to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance (TAGG) to the people. Such efforts will be the foundation for promoting international cooperation and division of labor. The above perspectives, however, are not necessarily fully understood internationally.

We represent the people. While placing ourselves daily in the reality of politics, unless we look to the future, speak our dreams, and make the effort to turn our ideals into reality, our existence as parliamentarians will be worthless.

As we go back to our countries, let us convey the merits of our discussions to our fellow parliamentarians and the government, and make the effort to include our discussions, one by one, in the outcomes of the G20.

And please do inform the APDA secretariat about what have been achieved in your countries as a result from such efforts. Such results will build the foundation for further sustaining and advancing our activities.

APDA and JPPF, which are the organizers of this conference, hope to support your efforts as much as possible.

As the organizer of this conference, we would like to sincerely thank you for your enthusiastic and earnest contribution. I would like to close this address by extending, once again, my sincere appreciation to the Shura Council of Bahrain for hosting this conference.

Thank you very much.

Visit to Ministry of Education

Participants in the study visit made a tour of the facilities of the Bahrain Ministry of Education, where they were briefed on the state of affairs of education in Bahrain and vocational training programmes for youth, followed by an active question and answer session.



Visit to Bahrain Science Center for SDGs, Ministry of Youth and Sport Affairs

Participants paid a visit to Bahrain Science Center for the SDGs, the first of its kind in this region dedicated to the SDGs under the supervision of the Ministry of Youth and Sport Affairs of Bahrain. After the briefing, they made a tour of the center. The participants were particularly interested in the country's efforts to widely enlighten people about the SDGs.



STATEMENT



Asian and Arab Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development - Part II Investing in Youth: Toward Regional Development and Achievement of the SDGs

2 October 2018
Manama, The Kingdom of Bahrain

Statement

Preamble

The year 2019 will offer an important opportunity to advance concrete action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) and G20 Summit, both of which will be hosted by Japan. In addition, 2019 also marks the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). In anticipation of this commemorative year, we Parliamentarians from 16 countries working on the issue of population and development recommend to our fellow Parliamentarians, national governments, the international community and civil society, the following actions as constructive contributions:

Where as;

1. Population represents society which is the very agent to realize the SDGs. Building a society where no one is left behind is to ensure every individual who makes up its population can live with dignity;
2. Political will is necessary for achieving the SDGs. Parliamentarians have a role to play in giving shape to that political will through law making and allocation, oversight and monitoring of budgetary resources. In this regard, parliamentarians, as the fourth pillar in the achievement of the SDGs, have a critical role to play together with national governments, the private sector and civil society;
3. Approaches to dealing with the issue of population cannot be forced upon individuals but must be based on their understanding and acceptance. As such, parliamentarians have an important role to play in creating a viable platform for community engagements;
4. Strengthening regional and international cooperation among key stakeholders is essential for achieving the SDGs. Such cooperation is contingent on countries having an investment environment that is fair and transparent. Population programmes in each country, moreover, must be founded on the understanding of its people. If a population programme is to be implemented with official development assistance (ODA) and other forms of international cooperation, the importance of the programme needs to be a well-informed choice of the

people. In this regard, it is essential to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance (TAGG) for the people in respective countries; and

5. In the Arab and Asian regions, young people constitute a significant portion of the population as a result of demographic transition. Through appropriate investment, this population structure can be leveraged to promote social and economic development and to provide the driving force for achieving the SDGs.

Now therefore, we strongly support UNFPA's new three transformative and people-centered results and recommend as follows:

- i. In order to achieve sustainable development, the mortality transition should proceed in tandem with the fertility transition. This requires promoting mortality transition by improving people's health through measures to combat communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases and expanding primary health care and promoting fertility transition by making comparable effort to ensure universal access to Reproductive Health (RH) services, as crucial components of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- ii. Having zero unwanted pregnancies is essential for fertility transition, which requires achieving universal access to RH services, including Family Planning. We urge fellow parliamentarians to legislate measures that are needed in their countries and to allocate funding to this end. We also urge the international community to reinforce support in this area.
- iii. In addition to further improvement in primary education, boys and girls should be given age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education, at the right time, based on accurate medical knowledge so that they can make responsible choices.
- iv. To eradicate gender-based violence and ensure respect for human rights of women and girls, eradicate discrimination and other maltreatment, enable women and girls to fulfill their potential to contribute positively to social development, it is imperative to place high priority on investment in youth education particularly for girls.
- v. Providing decent job opportunities for youth will enable them to become a driving force for sustainable development, contributing to ensuring social stability and building a foundation for development in respective countries. For this purpose, efforts should be made to empower women and girls, and to invest actively in education and training of young people so that they can fulfill roles up to par with the acceptable global standards.
- vi. Moreover, water-saving agricultural technology such as drip irrigation should be promoted to make the best use of local and available resources. Participating countries should be called upon to expand food production by combining, for instance and where applicable, solar power generation, desalination plants, and fully enclosed plant factories, thereby contributing to improving food security and increasing employment opportunities. To give concrete shape to these ideas, Japan and other countries should be requested to provide support and cooperation.
- vii. We parliamentarians represent the people of our countries and are accountable to the people for the use of the national budget. In this light, we are responsible for establishing TAGG for the people from within our countries. Realizing TAGG advances efforts to create an investment environment that is fair and based on laws and to build a solid foundation for global partnerships. It is important for parliamentarians to strengthen their unique role in exercising oversight over the government and further enhance TAGG for the people.
- viii. As parliamentarians, we urge our governments to prioritize SDGs, especially SDG 3, 4 and 5 on Health and Gender respectively as well as adopt all international and regional policy instruments which are focused on improving the health and livelihoods of women.

Accordingly, to achieve the SDGs, it is essential for parliamentarians to encourage inter-regional exchange, share information, and take stock of progress on population and development issues. For this purpose, it is important to promote parliamentarians' activities in which parliamentary groups in respective countries can actively engage. We urge the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and other independent public interest organizations to provide concrete evidence-based proposals in support of the activities of parliamentarians.

PROGRAMME

Asian and Arab Parliamentarians' Meeting and Study Visit on Population and Development – Part II

Investing in Youth: Toward Regional Development and Achievement of the SDGs

**2-3 October 2018
Manama, The Kingdom of Bahrain**

Programme

1 October 2018

Arrival of participants

2 October 2018 – Day 1

Meeting

- 08:30-09:00** **Registration** (Venue: Bahrain Shura Council building / Hall No.9)
- 09:00-09:40** **Opening** (Venue: Bahrain Shura Council building/ Hall No.9)
- Address of Organizer: **Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko**, MP Japan; Vice-Chair of JPFP
- Address: **H.E. Hideki Ito**, Ambassador of Japan to Kingdom of Bahrain
- Opening Statement: **Hon. Juma Al Kaabi**, MP Bahrain
- Address of Host Organization: **Hon. Marwan Al-Hmoud**, MP Jordan, Secretary General of FAPPD
- 09:40-10:10** **Group Photo & Coffee break** (Venue: The main gate, Shura Council building)
- 10:10-11:10** **Session 1: Population and the SDGs**
- Themes:
1. Population and the SDGs
Hon. Nadimul Haque, MP India [15 min]
 2. UHC and SRHR
Mrs. Shamaa Aldosari, Deputy Director, Bahrain Family Planning Association (BRHA) [15 min]
 3. Achieving Universal Access to Reproductive Health and Promotion for Social Stability
Hon. Dr. Sahar Qawasmi, MP Palestine, Vice-Chair of FAPPD [15 min]
 4. Population and the SDGs
Hon. Dr. Toshiko Abe, MP Japan, Deputy Executive Director of JPFP [15 min]
- 11:10-11:30** **Discussion** [20 min]
- Session Chair:** **Hon. Datuk Aaron Ago Anak Dagang**, MP Malaysia

- 11:30-12:20** **Session 2: Food Security and Employment Opportunity for Youth**
- Themes:
1. Potential of Vegetable Factories in the Arab Region: Focus on Food Security and Job Opportunity.
Mr. Takashi Egami, General Manager, Baghdad Branch Office & Amman Regional Office, Marubeni Corporation [15 min]
 2. Regional Food Security and Population Policy
Hon. Amira Aser, MP Sudan [15 min]
- 12:20-12:50** **Discussion** [30 min]
Session Chair: Hon. Azza Sulaiman, MP UAE
- 12:50-14:00** **Lunch** (Venue: Main restaurant, Shura Council building)
- 14:00-14:45** **Session 3: Parliamentarians' Role for Regional Development**
- Themes:
1. Advancing Inter-Regional Cooperation
Hon. Amihilda J. Sangcopan, MP Philippines [15 min]
 2. Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development
Hon. Ghitha Badroun, MP Morocco [15 min]
 3. Legislation and Policymaking for National Development
Hon. Akmal Burkhanov, MP Uzbekistan [15 min]
- 14:45-15:15** **Discussion** [30 min]
Session Chair: Hon. Souhail Alouini, MP Tunisia
- 15:15-16:00** **Session 4: Discussion for the Adoption of the Parliamentarians' Statement** [45 min]
Chair: Hon. Elvira Surabaldieva, MP Kyrgyzstan
- 16:00-16:30** Coffee Break (Venue: Bahrain Shura Council building / Hall No.9)
- 16:30-17:00** **Closing**
Address: **Hon. Ibtisam Abu Rehab**, MP Egypt, President of IPPF Arab World Region
Closing Address: **Hon. Hiroyuki Nagahama**, MP Japan, Vice-Chair of JPPF
- 19:00** Official Reception (Venue: Wyndham Grand Manama Hotel)

3 October 2018 – Day 2

Study Visit

- 10:00-10:10** Meeting at Hotel Lobby
- 10:10-11:00** Travel to Ministry of Education
- 11:00-12:00** Briefing at Ministry of Education

12:00-12:20	Travel to Bahrain Science Center for SDGs, Ministry of Youth and Sport Affairs
12:20-13:20	Briefing at Bahrain Science Center for SDGs, Ministry of Youth and Sport Affairs
13:20-13:50	Travel to Naseef restaurant
13:50-14:50	Lunch at Naseef restaurant
15:00	Travel back to Hotel
19:00	Dinner

4 October 2018

Departure of Participants

Organized by:

The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

Hosted by:

The Shura Council of Bahrain

Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD)

Supported by:

The Japan Trust Fund (JTF)

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)



Kingdom of Bahrain
Shura Council



From
the People of Japan



IPPF International
Planned Parenthood
Federation

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MPs and National Committees on Population and Development				
1	H.E.	Jameela Ali Salman	Bahrain	Second Deputy Chairman (Shura Council)
2	H.E.	Abdulhaleem Abdullah Murad	Bahrain	Second Deputy Speaker (Council of Representatives)
3	Hon.	Juma Al Kaabi	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
4	Hon.	Mohammed Al-Khuzai	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
5	Hon.	Khalid Hussain Al-Maskati	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
6	Hon. Dr.	Mohammed Ali	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
7	Hon.	Khamees Al-Rumaihi	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
8	Hon.	Nawar Al-Mahmoud	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
9	Hon.	Darweesh Al-Mannai	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
10	Hon.	Ahmed Bahzad	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
11	Hon.	Basam Al bin Mohamed	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
12	Hon.	Jawad Hussain	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
13	Hon. Dr.	Saeed Ahmed Abdulla Husain	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
14	Hon.	Redha Faraj	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
15	Hon.	Samya Al-Moayed	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
16	Hon.	Fuad Al-Hajee	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
17	Hon.	Zahwah Al-Kawari	Bahrain	MP (Shura Council)
18	Hon.	Abdulrahman Ali Buali	Bahrain	MP (Council of Representatives)
19	Hon.	Abbas Al-Madhi	Bahrain	MP (Council of Representatives)
20	Hon.	Nasser Alqaseer	Bahrain	MP (Council of Representatives)
21	Hon.	Osama Alkhaja	Bahrain	MP (Council of Representatives)
22	Hon.	Anas Bohendi	Bahrain	MP (Council of Representatives)
23	Hon.	Jamal Buhasan	Bahrain	MP (Council of Representatives)
24	Hon.	Jameela Alsamak	Bahrain	MP (Council of Representatives)
25	Hon.	Isa Turki	Bahrain	MP (Council of Representatives)
26	Hon.	Mohamed Almaarefi	Bahrain	MP (Council of Representatives)
27	Hon.	Abdulhameed Ahmed	Bahrain	MP (Council of Representatives)
28	Hon.	Ibtisam Abu Rehab	Egypt	MP
29	Hon.	Nadimul Haque	India	MP
30	Mr.	Manmohan Sharma	India	Executive Secretary, IAPPD
31	Hon.	Teruhiko Mashiko	Japan	MP; Vice-Chair of JPPF
32	Hon.	Hiroyuki Nagahama	Japan	MP; Vice-Chair of JPPF
33	Hon. Dr.	Toshiko Abe	Japan	MP; Deputy Executive Director of JPPF
34	Hon.	Marwan Al-Hmoud	Jordan	MP; Secretary-General of FAPPD
35	Hon.	Elvira Surabaldieva	Kyrgyzstan	MP
36	Hon.	Datuk Aaron Ago anak Dagang	Malaysia	MP
37	Ms.	Chin Pek Lean	Malaysia	Secretary of Parliament
38	Hon. Dr.	Ghita Badroun	Morocco	MP
39	Hon. Dr.	Hamood Al Yahyaai	Oman	MP
40	Hon.	Abdalla bin Mubarak	Oman	MP
41	Hon. Dr.	Sahar Qawasmi	Palestine	MP
42	Hon.	Amihilda J. Sangcopan	Philippines	MP

43	Ms.	Hajan Aliya	Philippines	Chief of Staff, Secretariat
44	Hon.	Hector Appuhamy	Sri Lanka	MP
45	Hon.	Amira Alsir	Sudan	MP
46	Hon.	Wafaa Maki	Sudan	MP
47	Hon.	Souhail Alouini	Tunisia	MP
48	Hon.	Azza Sulaiman	UAE	MP
49	Hon.	Akmal Burkhanov	Uzbekistan	MP
Resource Person				
50	Mr.	Takashi Egami	Jordan	General Manager, Baghdad Branch Office & Amman Regional Office, Marubeni Corporation
Parliament and Government				
51	H.E. Mr.	Hideki Ito	Bahrain	Ambassador of Japan to Kingdom of Bahrain
52	Mr.	Toshiya Nakajima	Bahrain	First Secretary, Head of Economic, Cultural & PR Section, Embassy of Japan
53	Dr.	Fouzia Al Jeeb	Bahrain	Assistant Secretary General of Relation & Media, Shura Council
54	Mr.	Yousif Yaqoob Marhoon	Bahrain	Director of Relation & Media, Shura Council
55	Mr.	Yaser Ramadan Al-Asam	Bahrain	Head of Protocol & Ceremonies, Shura Council
IPPF and BRHA				
56	Dr.	Mohamed Kamel	Tunisia	Director of IPPF Arab World Regional Office (AWRO)
57	Mr.	Mustapha Kemayel	Tunisia	Assistant Regional Director of IPPF AWRO
58	Dr.	Mohamed Harby	Tunisia	Advocacy Advisor of IPPF AWRO
59	Ms.	Shamaa Aldosari	Bahrain	Deputy Director of BRHA
Media and Observers				
60	Ms.	Aniqa Haider	Bahrain	IPS
FAPPD Secretariat				
61	Dr.	Mohammad Al Smadi	Jordan	FAPPD Regional Coordinator
62	Ms.	Ayah Eid	Jordan	FAPPD Secretariat
APDA				
63	Dr.	Osamu Kusumoto	Japan	Secretary-General; Executive Director
64	Ms.	Hitomi Tsunekawa	Japan	Chief Manager, International Affairs
65	Dr.	Farrukh Usmonov	Japan	Assistant Manager of International Affairs/Senior Researcher
Interpreters				
66	Mr.	Tsukushi Ikeda	Japan	Interpreter
67	Ms.	Fadheela Alhaiki	Bahrain	Interpreter
68	Ms.	Haneya Sulaiman	Bahrain	Interpreter